

ONE HUNDRED AND FORTY-SECOND ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT OF THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

2017



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THE INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY
THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY
ADYAR, CHENNAI 600 020, INDIA

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Presidential Address

To the 142nd Annual Convention of the Theosophical Society (TS)

Adyar, 31 December 2017

I am very happy to warmly welcome all of you to this 142nd International Convention at our Adyar international headquarters, and I wish you a very pleasant and inspiring time while you are here. Let us rise to invoke the blessing of our elder Brethren, who are ever ready to guide and help those who are unselfishly dedicated to the good of other living beings:

**May those who are the embodiments of Love Immortal
bless with their help and guidance this Society,
founded to be a channel for their work.**

**May They inspire it with their Wisdom, strengthen it
with their Power, and energize it with their activity.**

The year 2017 marks the 142nd anniversary of the Theosophical Society's founding. Longevity is universally regarded as a good thing because it indicates a connection to some vitalizing principle that extends the lifespan beyond the normal range. Whether it is the person who reaches 100 years of age, or the organization that outlasts its contemporaries, what is the "secret" for long life is always a question.

There are countless examples of great people and movements who appeared on the scene for a moment, did their work, and departed, whose only lasting mark is on the hearts and minds of the people they touched. There are also examples of long life where people, institutions, or organizations have limped their way into the future, mimicking vitality, but forgetful of their reason for being — cut off from the life force that gives meaning to the years. There is an expression that a parrot can

live to 100 years of age but, in the end, he is still a parrot.

While longevity is potentially a great blessing, its value is determined solely by how that time has been used. From the perspective of the Theosophical Society (TS) and the movement that came into being with its founding, it is not enough to merely endure. The purpose of this movement is transformation, at a deep level, described by the poet D. H. Lawrence as "freeing oneself from the endless repetition of the mistake which mankind at large has chosen to sanctify" — the mistake of separation, imagined independence, and isolation that has been the hallmark of human behavior and the wellspring of the array of problems we have come to regard as normal to the human condition.

Every year we come together as an international body to remember our roots, our invisible / hidden connection to a shared vitalizing source, and to draw

strength from that remembrance. If approached as a mere reminiscence, or a fond looking backwards to the “good old days”, our time together is wasted. Not only is our time squandered, but the enormous sacrifices of those who preceded us and who have made this moment possible are diminished by our failure to properly understand.

The TS has its Three Objects which have given direction from the outset. However, the reason for its existence is stated in a manner different from its Objects. In *The Key to Theosophy* H. P. Blavatsky, the Society’s principal founder, makes the statement that the TS was founded for two main reasons: 1) “to assist in showing to people that such a thing as Theosophy exists”, and 2) “to help them to ascend towards it by studying and assimilating its eternal verities”. During the lifetime of the TS these goals have been approached along different lines. Initially there was a focused resistance to the limitations of the science and religion of the day. The outline of an alternative,

* * *

The highlight of the year’s activities was the 38th **European Congress**, held in Barcelona, **Spain**, from 21 to 26 August on “Theosophy: a Way toward Universal Consciousness”. The Congress was organized by the European Federation and the Spanish Section of the TS, with more than 200 attending from 18 countries. I gave the opening lecture on the theme, and other lectures were given by several General Secretaries, officers of the TS, and President of Point Loma

a Divine Wisdom, a Theosophy, capable of spiritualizing and humanizing both individuals and their institutions, had to be presented in a manner that could be grasped by those rare high and open minds. Wisdom needed to be reduced to knowledge in order to gain access to popular thought.

Having succeeded in the initial goal of showing that such a thing as Theosophy exists and having established a globally shared language for the consideration of the Ageless Wisdom, the focus of our work has fully entered into the realm of “studying and assimilating its eternal verities”. The progression from teachings to insight and from student to exemplar justifies the existence of the TS. No new fact or increment of knowledge is required to address the mounting issues of our time. The outline of the wisdom teachings that we have been given exceeds our capacity to comprehend. In the words of Albert Schweitzer: “Example is not the main thing in influencing others; it is the *only* thing.”

Theosophical Society in The Hague, the Netherlands, Herman Vermeulen. A session of questions and answers preceded the closing. The whole program is available on the websites of both the Federation and the Section. Earlier on 25 June the General Secretary of Spain, Mrs Angels Torra, gave a lecture during the French Convention on “What is Spirituality?” During the year, several silent meditation retreats were organized, which were well attended and highly motivating.

From this point onward, we proceed in alphabetical order within each region.

In the **Austrian** Regional Association three new members joined during the year, for a total membership of 58. All three Lodges offer weekly lectures during the study year, and study subjects are based on classical Theosophical teachings and related subjects. Offered lectures are regularly placed on the TS Austria website, and their members receive the periodical magazine, *Adyar*, from the German Section three times per year.

The TS in **Belgium** has 78 members in 8 active Lodges. The Section's activities continued throughout the country, mostly centered in the North and the capital of Brussels. During the year they welcomed Ms Trân-Thi-Kim-Diêu in Brussels for a well-attended and appreciated two-day seminar on the Indian epic, the Mahabharata, which dealt with the Ageless Wisdom approach to self-development. Another highlight was their New Year's reception featuring a video of Vicente Hao Chin, Jr's lecture during the International Convention on "The Religions of the Future". During the same event, the long-expected website of the Belgian TS <www.ts-belgium.be> was launched, along with the launch of a new general brochure to help them increase their presence in Belgium.

The National President of the TS in **England**, Jenny Baker, reports that in October 2016 David Nieuwejaers led an introductory course on the ancient theosophy of Plotinus on "The Return of the Soul to the One", which was one of the year's highlights. Also in September the

History and Archives Group of their Section organized a successful International Conference exploring the life and works of Annie Besant, with guest speakers from many countries, including the USA, France, Italy, The Netherlands, and England. Leslie Price and Janet Lee and others continue to catalogue and conserve the extensive archives. Mrs Baker spoke at several Lodges throughout the year and attended the 38th European Congress in Barcelona. At the closing ceremony she was presented with the EFTS Banner, as the English Section will be hosting the 39th European Congress in 2020.

The **Finnish** Section's Annual Convention was held in Tampere on 8 April. The Summer School in June was at Kreivilä, with Mr Hao Chin, Jr as their guest speaker, who had a real success with his "Self-Transformation" (ST) seminar. Nine persons expressed their wish to become ST facilitators. For the first time they used simultaneous translation equipment, and it was much appreciated. A new study group called the "Self-Transformation Study Group" was started in October 2016 in Helsinki. It based its studies on Mr Hao Chin, Jr's book *The Process of Self-Transformation*. A revised Finnish translation of *The Secret Doctrine* (SD) was published in June jointly by Kalevala and Minerva Lodges. In Estonia the Lodges arranged Summer School in June with the theme "Possibilities of Human Life". They also had a winter seminar in Tallinn in January, SD study days in Tartu in May, and an autumn study camp in August. The Section has 379 members.

The **French** Section reports that they reached the targets for the year of (1) training workers to participate in administrative tasks; and (2) continuing training students to be speakers. Courses were offered free of charge every fortnight. Video projections of J. Krishnamurti's talks took place quarterly. Public lectures were given quarterly with minimal or no charge. The work of Lodges continued steadily with meetings taking place once a month and stress given to basic theosophical subjects. There was a revival of the Lodges in the Congo, Africa, and the French Adyar Editions sent them several introductory theosophical books. All programmes of the Section were published on its website and in the Section's magazine, *Le Lotus Bleu*.

The Northern **German** meeting in May was very well attended in Travemünde, near Lübeck, with Gabriële Franklin, Assistant General Secretary, as the organizer. Manuela Kaulich, gave a lecture on "The Power of Thoughts and Thought Forms". They held elections this year and Mrs Kaulich, the only candidate, was re-elected for another 3-year term as General Secretary, a post she has held since 2008. The theme of this year's Summer School was "Is humankind steering into a blind alley? What does Divine Wisdom / Theosophy have to counteract this?" It was very successful, with 29 average attendees. Their magazine, *Adyar*, continued to be published three times a year and is well received. Membership increased from 119 to 126.

In the **Greek** Section their translation of *The Mahatma Letters to A. P. Sinnett* was published recently and they will send

a copy of the book to the Adyar Library soon. Also the series by Annie Besant and C. W. Leadbeater on *Talks on the Path of Occultism* are also being translated into Greek and will be published in three volumes. Their membership stands at 147. Their quarterly magazine, *Ilisos*, is posted to about 250 subscribers in Greece and abroad, and is given free to all members.

The TS in **Hungary** held their General Meeting on 1 October 2016, when the new Presidential Representative, Mr János Szabari, and the Executive Committee were elected. They have 33 members in three Lodges, one in the countryside and two in Budapest, but only one of them is active. They organized one public lecture monthly from September to June on weekdays with 15–25 participants. The main subjects applied theosophical teachings to deal with daily problems.

The annual **Icelandic** Summer School was a success in every way for the fourth year in a row, held in the NLFI Spa and Medical Clinic, with excellent meeting and health-related facilities. The theme this year was "Together to the Same Goal". Their lecturers are often members of the TS, but various scholars, writers, university professors, and so on, are also invited. The titles included: "A Date with the Universe", "Self-image, Life, and Happiness", "J. Krishnamurti and Music", and "*The Voice of the Silence*". At their Annual General Meeting last May Halldór Haraldsson withdrew as GS and Kristinn Ágúst Fridfinnsson was elected as the next General Secretary. Their membership has risen to 283 from 262.

On 27 May the All-Ireland Conven-

tion was held in centrally-located Dublin, which was very well supported by members from the Belfast and Phoenix Lodges. They had Gerard Brennan as their guest speaker, a visiting Australian member, also affiliated to TS Ireland. The theme was "The Journey of the Wild Swans", and his talk was profound, inspiring, and very well received and appreciated by those present. The Organizing Secretary, Mrs Marie Harkness, had frequent contact with all Irish members during the year through her circulars with TS news and quarterly study notes. They have had a successful year with growing membership.

The 27 groups and 27 study centers of the TS in **Italy** carried out "members only" meetings and public conferences. Being the largest Section in the European Federation, it owns open-to-public seats and libraries in many cities, including Milan, Vicenza, Florence, and Rome. Their website <<http://www.teosofica.org>> attracts over 4,000 visits per month. A dedicated section contains videos of theosophical conferences taken during congresses and seminars, and another is fully dedicated to the Theosophical Order of Service (TOS). They publish their monthly magazine, *Rivista Italiana di Teosofia*, with 1,150 printed copies and over 1,000 subscriptions. They have 925 members, a slight decrease from last year.

The Netherlands reports there were 7 national activities in the International Theosophical Center (ITC) in Naarden during the year, including two in English: one with Fernando de Torrijos (USA) from 23 to 28 June on "Mindfulness"; and the other on 3 September, where I held a

lecture in the morning for members, and another in the afternoon for the general public. Their quarterly magazine, *Theosofia*, is also published on the internet: <www.theosofie.nl>. Many different activities were presented in the Lodges and centers with lectures, meditation, and study. Films of J. Krishnamurti were also shown on a regular basis. They have 323 members in 9 Lodges and 6 study centers.

The post of Organizing Secretary for the **Norwegian** Regional Association was transferred from Mr Saleh Noshie to Mr Andreas Mikael Isberg last April. Until August of this year there was only one active Lodge in Norway, which had had programs every month of lecture and dialogue. This year they welcomed 5 new members. In February a new Lodge was formed and they now have a program of guided mindfulness meditation, lecture, and dialogue. Their website <www.teosofisksamfunn.no> has been regularly updated.

The **Portuguese Section** reports that the highlight of their year was my visit to Lisbon and Porto in August, right after the 38th European Congress held in Barcelona. In Lisbon, I had a private meeting with members and then gave a public lecture there and also in Porto. Although it was a short visit, it was a pleasant experience for all involved. The Section keeps busy every fortnight with a public session in different formats, all of them well attended. Four members, including the General Secretary, Ana Maria C. de Sousa, attended the European Congress. They continue publishing regularly their magazine *Osiris*, either on

paper or online. The Lodges in Lisbon, Porto, and Évora, and also the Study Group in Azores and Setúbal go on working with enthusiasm, some of them attracting new sympathizers. The Section has 114 members, a slight increase from the previous year.

The TS in **Russia** reports that this year a theosophical publishing house was created, Russian-Ukrainian relations were strengthened, and construction of the Siberian Theosophical Center in the Altai continued. Their website <ts-russia.org> is administered by the former and current Presidential Representatives, Pavel Malakhov and Alexey Besputin. They now have 133 members, a drop of 37 from last year, with 8 very active Lodges and one study center.

The Regional Association in **Slovenia** has 55 members in 4 Lodges. Their quarterly newsletter, *Theosophical Thought*, was published regularly, and all memorial days of the TS were celebrated.

The **Swedish** Section has 151 members in 6 Lodges and one study center, and their magazine is issued 4 times per year. They have arranged minischools at the headquarters in Stockholm twice a year with about 20 participants each. Their Summer School featured Vicente Hao Chin, Jr, from the Philippines, on the theme: "Transform Yourself—Transform Your Life—Modern Insight". The Finnish Section members helping them at Kreivila were very good organizers. Their website is at: <teosofiskasamfundet.se>.

On 17 June the TS in **Switzerland** had a new Presidential Representative, Mr Andrea Biasca-Caroni, in the place of

Mrs Eliane Gaillard, who did valuable work for 12 years. The Agency has 27 members (an increase of 4 from last year) in 2 Lodges and 2 study centers. Its activities are as follows: One Lodge had meetings in Ascona and, the other, courses on Theosophy in Geneva; the Lugano study group met fortnightly, and the new study group met in Zurich.

In September, Svitlana Gavrylenko was re-elected as Organizing Secretary of the TS in **Ukraine** for another 3-year term. The 100 members in 6 Lodges and 3 study centers met regularly to study classic Theosophical literature. Their annual Convention was held in Kiev in November on the theme "Compassion and Universal Responsibility", with more than 40 participants from 8 cities including Moscow. Their Summer School was held in Odessa in July on "Creativity as a Spiritual Path", with more than 30 participants from 6 cities. Their electronic magazine, *Svitoch*, was issued 6 times during the year.

The **Welsh** Regional Association membership now stands at 68 in 4 Lodges and one study center. The Lodges have been holding monthly study meetings for their members. They have been discussing the basic Wisdom Teachings as presented in Tim Wyatt's *Cycles of Eternity*, said to be a simple and practical 100-page application of the Ancient Wisdom. Every member in Wales received a free copy of the book paid for by the TS in Wales.

The highlight of this year for the **East and Central African** Section was the visit of Vicente Hao Chin, Jr, from the Philippines, who was the guest speaker at

their 48th Convention, held at Kampala, Uganda, from 12 to 14 April, on "The Art and Science of Happiness". He delivered three public lectures during the 3-day Convention. He also toured all the Regions in East & Central Africa during his 19-day trip, giving 6 public talks in different cities. In Nairobi he conducted a very successful Self-Transformation Seminar. Their membership is now 136 in 5 Lodges.

The **South African** Section has gone through difficult times over recent months. It has 6 Lodges, but membership has been affected by the large number of emigrations to the USA, Canada, Australia and Europe. It has 135 members, a drop of 16 from last year. The crime wave is another factor affecting attendance at Lodge meetings. They are also having difficulty attracting and keeping younger members. The Deputy General Secretary, Desmond Douglas Chapman, visited Durban twice, Cape Town, and Germiston. He has spoken to Lodge Presidents about implementing a diploma course, and because many tutorials are involved, he will train the Presidents and one other member from each Lodge on how to present the course for local classes.

The **West African** Section annual Convention was held on 8 and 9 July with three lectures on "Technology, Theosophy, and Science". After each lecture there were questions and contributions, which enriched their deliberations. Topics taken up at the Council Meeting held during the Convention were: (1) establishment of a bookshop, (2) starting a journal of the TS in West Africa, (3) study programs, and (4) publicity activities and public lectures.

They decided to work on these 4 items during the coming year. Their membership is steady at 242 in 11 Lodges.

The **East and Southeast Asia** Presidential Agency, is present in 4 countries (Singapore, Malaysia, Japan, and Myanmar) with an active Lodge in each. The **Singapore** Lodge, formed in 1889, is the largest, with a membership of 358. The team that develops the Chinese website is based in this Lodge. The Selangor Lodge, formed in 1929, is the sole Lodge in **Malaysia** and has 94 members. **Japan's** 45-year old Nippon Lodge in Tokyo has 45 members. The Yangon Theosophical Society in **Myanmar** has the Olcott Lodge, with 46 members. There was quite a large turnover with 61 incoming and 69 outgoing members during the year. The total number of members for the Presidential Agency is 543, a decrease of 8 from last year.

The **Australian** Section membership is reported at 812 in 11 Lodges and 6 study centers. Notable highlights of their activities during the year included: (1) The January National Convention in Hobart, on the theme "Eastern Spirituality, Psyche, and the Human Journey", featuring a fine public talk by Dr Bruno Cayoun on "The Core Mechanisms of Buddhist Spirituality". (2) The very successful tour by Dr Pablo Sender, from the USA, which included the School of Theosophy as well as his professionally recorded weekend seminar in Launceston. He also spoke at several Lodges. (3) The offer of an annual prize at the University of Western Australia for a third year undergraduate course on "Philosophy East and West";

an official response is awaited. Interestingly, their book depot of some fifty specially selected books at the National Headquarters continued to attract sales during the year at cost recovery prices.

The Presidential Representative of **Bangladesh**, Mr B. L. Bhattacharyya, reports that two new Lodges were chartered and three more are in the process. He kept close contact with all the Lodges and sent them study materials, including *At the Feet of the Master* and I. K. Taimni's *Principles of Theosophical Work*. Their membership is now 300, an increase of 27 from last year, working in 11 Lodges.

The annual Convention of the **Indian** Section, with 11,394 members in 408 Lodges under 16 Federations, was inaugurated by me and chaired by international Vice-President Dr Chittaranjan Satapathy at Adyar in January. The largest Section of the TS Adyar had a change of General Secretary with Mr Pradeep H. Gohil assuming the post, succeeding Mr S. Sundaram. Mr Pradip Mahapatra was nominated as Joint General Secretary. Short talks by Mr O. P. Aneja, Mrs Nandita Kuldip, and Dr P. S. P. Sarangi on "Self-preparation: An Important Aspect of Theosophical Work" were well received by the delegates. "Theosophy —

Defining the Indefinable" was the theme for the three-day 94th South India Conference at Adyar in April, inaugurated by Marja Artamaa, international Secretary, welcomed by Mr Gohil, and attended by around 100 delegates. There were talks by four speakers, followed by workshops. The Section headquarters at Varanasi hosted the North India study camp held

over three days in October 2016 on N. Sri Ram's *An Ap-proach to Reality*, directed by Prof. R. C. Tampi. A series of over five study camps were conducted from April to June at the Himalayan Centre for Theosophical Studies in Bhowali, on topics such as *Self Realization through Love* by I. K. Taimni, teachings of J. Krishnamurti, the Upanishads from a Theosophical perspective, and so on.

Visits and talks were conducted at various locations during the year by the National Lecturers. The Central Property Committee set up last year at Varanasi to manage the properties of the Society started work on reconstruction of facilities, obtaining legal title for properties, and so on. The TOS South Zone conference was held over two days in July at Kakinada with Nancy Secrest, international Secretary, as the chief guest, and the North Zone conference was held in Varanasi in August with the General Secretary officiating as chief guest. *The Indian Theosophist*, mouthpiece of the Indian Section, had a special issue commemorating the 100th anniversary of Annie Besant's elevation to the presidency of the Indian National Congress, the organization that eventually secured independence for India.

The **Indonesian** Section reports an increase of 15 members and one more Lodge, totalling 209 members in 15 Lodges and one study center.

The President of the Covenant Lodge, Abraham Oron, in Tel Aviv, **Israel**, had weekly study sessions for members on a variety of subjects. They also held three seminars during the year, ranging from 28

to 34 participants. The last one, in June, was led by Tr  n-Thi-Kim-Di  u, Chairman of the European Federation, which was well received. Their YouTube channel now has more than 40 films, some of them full-length lectures on various Theosophical topics. They have 67 members and 5 study groups.

The **New Zealand** Section hosted the Indo-Pacific Federation conference in Auckland from 14 to 19 October 2016 with 110 delegates from around the Indo-Pacific region, and several guests from Europe and Brazil. They were pleased to have Lily and me present. Their Science Seminar followed from 19 to 21 October with speakers having professional scientific backgrounds from Australia, France, India, and New Zealand. Their annual convention was held in Dunedin in January 2017, with guest speakers Tr  n-Thi-Kim-Di  u from France and Elena Dovalsantos from the USA, on "Theosophy — Science, Spirituality, and Consciousness". A School of Theosophy was held in May with director of studies Dorothy Bell, exploring the theme: "A Theosophical Worldview — the Power Revealed", which was a well-presented program. The Section sent 7 national speakers to the 13 branches around the country to support their work. They have 619 members in 4 study centers.

The TS in the **Philippines** (TSP) annual Convention was held at their National Headquarters with Leni Robredo, Vice-President of the Philippine Republic, as the guest speaker. During the convention, a new set of national board of trustees was elected, including the re-election of Roselmo Doval-Santos as National Presi-

dent. The Section Headquarters continues to publish *The Theosophical Digest*, among other periodicals. The Section sponsored a 3-hour Zazen Meditation session conducted by Sister Sonia Punzalan, a Catholic nun. They have 235 members in 20 Lodges and 10 study centers.

The General Secretary of the **Argentinian** Section, Esteban Langlois, tells us that national events took place in San Lorenzo in November 2016 on "Genealogy of Man" by Annie Besant, with 3 speakers and 50 members from the Section. Another event was held in Buenos Aires in the spring on "Reincarnation and Life after Death". It was attended by over 70 members and visitors from Argentina and Uruguay. Both their Summer Schools took place in the San Rafael Theosophical Center. Mr Langlois visited 7 Lodges across the country. In February a new Section website was opened: <www.sociedadteosofica.org.ar>, and also a YouTube channel including my video blog with Spanish subtitles. The Section has 303 members in 17 Lodges and 8 study centers.

The **Bolivian** General Secretary, Mrs Guillermina R  os de Sandoval, participated in the Inter-American Federation Congress that took place in Brasilia on "The Masters' Letters" and the Section sent Jos   Luis Rojas to participate in the International Gathering of Young Theosophists in February in the same city. Their National Meeting was held in La Paz with the theme: "The TS: Why and for what purpose was it founded?" Their 124 members are spread over 11 Lodges and 6 study centers.

The **Brazilian** Section continues to be the largest in Latin America with 676 members in 33 Lodges and 20 study centers. They have a new General Secretary, Sergio Carvalho de Moraes, Jr, succeeding Marcos de Resende. Their Winter School was held at the Theosophical Institute in Brasilia. Their International Theosophical School, held in the same venue in Brasilia, had Esteban Langlois, as its Visiting Lecturer, who spoke on "Applied Theosophy: Abstract Teachings for a Concrete Life". The International Youth Group met in February on "Diversity as a Way to Universal Brotherhood". *Sophia* magazine has entered its 15th year with 636 subscribers. It sells at newsstands all over the country.

The **Canadian** Regional Association (CRA) reports a membership of 124, an increase of 6 from last year, working in 5 Lodges and 2 study groups. All Lodges have been active, holding at least monthly meetings. In late August York Lodge hosted the CRA's Annual Convention with Michael Gomes, from New York City, as the speaker for a conference on "HPB, Her Life and Work". On 26 and 27 August Les Montagnes Bleues Lodge had its 3rd Summer School with guest speaker Jacques Mahnich, from France, who spoke on "Science and Theosophy".

The TS in **Chile** membership stands at 47 working in 3 Lodges. Their Convention was held in March on the theme, "Live Spiritually". Pamphlets were distributed in subways and on electronic pages. Both *The Chilean Theosophical Magazine*, a hardcopy printed version, and the electronic "Theosophical Brochure"

are sent monthly to different Spanish-speaking countries. They have an online radio <stradiochile.caster.fm>, transmitting lectures and classes. For more information see blog: <sociedadteosofica.chile.blogspot.com>.

The **Colombian** Presidential Agency has a membership of 28 working in 4 Lodges and 4 study centers that keep active studying a variety of theosophical teachings and authors. In the TS in **Costa Rica** there are 52 members in 5 Lodges. Although the Lodges meet at least weekly, and one meets twice per week, the attendance is low overall and most of them did not submit their reports to the Presidential Representative.

The **Cuban** Section Annual Convention was celebrated on 14 and 15 January with the theme "Seven Levels of Divine Love". Drs Isaac Jauli and Enrique Reig, from Mexico, presented a series of programs at the national headquarters in Havana from 15 to 22 March, which was appreciated. They gave a public conference about "The Inner Child" and two meetings for members: "How to Live Theosophy in the Modern World" and "The Philosophy of Impermanence". The Section's 2-day Summer School was organized as a workshop for members by the Lodges in Havana on *Letters from the Masters of the Wisdom*, First series, compiled by C. Jinarājadāsa. Their magazine, *Revista Teosófica Cubana*, continues as an electronic quarterly. The Section, with 572 members in 12 Lodges, is the second largest in Latin America.

The TS in the **Dominican Republic** has 34 members in 2 Lodges and one study

center. The major events of Atma Lodge in Santo Domingo were several lectures given in late March by Drs Isaac Jauli and Enrique Reig on keys to overcome suffering. Also in Santo Domingo a group of members inaugurated the H. P. Blavatsky weekly study group in August under the guidance of Felipe de Castro. Theosophical topics are discussed and presented weekly by Nueva Aurora members in Rio Plata for the general public.

The **Mexican Section** welcomed Drs Isaac Jauli and Enrique Reig last December, who conducted the Section's School of Wisdom program. The Section also supported the Inter-American Theosophical Federation program in realizing the lectures given by Professor P. Krishna. In September the new Guadalajara study center was certified.

The **Peruvian** Presidential Agency has 33 members in 2 active Lodges, holding 16 public talks between them during the year. They also offered a free internet course of Theosophy for the public and had their usual studies and meetings for members. Their highlight of the year was that they could finally raise enough funds to buy land in December to build their own hall for public lectures, to hold around 50 or more people, and to possibly house their two Lodges.

The TS in **Puerto Rico** presented public conferences on a wide range of theological subjects almost every Sunday to reach out to interested walk-in persons. Some examples are "The Seven Bodies of Man", "Interior Harmony", and "The Path of Occultism", delivered by members from their Presidential Agency. They received

the visit of Drs Isaac Jauli and Enrique Reig, who offered public conferences attended by 40 to 50 persons. The Agency has 40 members in 3 Lodges.

The Regional Association in **Uruguay** gained 2 members, now standing at 58 in 5 Lodges. They hold weekly meetings and studies based on Theosophical literature, including J. Krishnamurti and E. Tolle. They also study articles published in *Sophia*, the official magazine of the TS in Spain and from the Internet, seeking the convergence of modern science and the Ancient Wisdom. Videos of seminars in Spain and lectures of Juan Viñas in Brasilia were also shown. A course was given by the Organizing Secretary, Ema de Souza Leal, on "An Approach to Theosophy".

The **TS in the USA (TSA)** has 3,323 members in 35 Lodges and 46 study centers. During the year, Tim Boyd, international President, ended his second 3-year term of service as President of the TSA, and Barbara Hebert, former Vice-President under his presidency, assumed Mr Boyd's role as of 1 July. David Bruce remains the National Secretary and Floyd Kettering continues as the National Treasurer. Mr Bruce reports that two new study centers were certified during the year. He organized 42 lectures or workshops at Lodges, study centers, camps, and Federations. The Henry S. Olcott Memorial **Library and Archives** is central to a growing Theosophical community worldwide. Their archivist, Janet Kerschner, and Pablo Sender continue to coordinate construction of their Theosophy Wiki encyclopedia online, available in English, Spanish, Russian, French, and now in

Italian. Boris de Zirkoff's annotated copy of Blavatsky's *Theosophical Glossary* is accessible through this online service. By **webcasting** their Thursday night lectures and other programs, they reach a larger national and international audience. Also they have continued to increase their number of online interactive webinar programs. Pablo Sender's course on *The Secret Doctrine* and Ravi Ravindra's course "Freedom from the Self: A Study of the Yoga-sutras" were very popular. Taken as a whole, these programs advance the mission of the Society and benefit the entire world community. The **IT department**, managed by Chris Bolger, has supported the Quest Book Shop in migrating to a new inventory and point-of-sale system. A complete redesign of the main TSA website, <www.theosophical.org>, is underway. They are also starting a new project with Quest Books to produce audio versions of some of their more popular paperback titles. These can be sold via download from Amazon.com. The **Quest Book Shop** in Wheaton has an average of 1,000 sales per month, and over 3,000 customers receive a monthly e-newsletter announcing special sales. Theosophical books are their bestselling book category, but books on all major religious traditions, esoteric studies, philosophy, science, mysticism, and contemporary teachings.

The Presidential Agency in **Venezuela** has 15 members in 2 Lodges that meet to study together every Sunday for two hours and then they have lunch together. Their studies include Annie Besant's *A Study in Consciousness*, and *Talks on*

the Path of Occultism, vol. I (based on *At the Feet of the Master*) by Annie Besant and C. W. Leadbeater.

In addition to the Lodge in **Israel**, with 67 members, there are 7 more Lodges attached to Adyar: 2 in France, and one each in Croatia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Qatar, and USA, totaling 172 members, including Israel. There are also 29 Fellows at Large (members attached to Adyar).

At Adyar, the **Archives and Museum** has completed the huge work of digitizing H. P. Blavatsky's scrapbooks, primarily due to the great service rendered by volunteers. But their availability has shrunk a lot lately, and the Society looks forward to more people volunteering to help soon. Over 20 researchers from around 12 countries used our archives.

The **Adyar Library and Research Centre** completed digitizing manuscripts initiated two years ago. Two pamphlets were published and twelve books have been selected for new publication and the work is in progress. The affiliation with the American Institute of Indian Studies for research continued this year.

The administrative office of the **Theosophical Order of Service** (TOS) shifted to Adyar in India along with the move of its international Secretary, Ms Nancy Secrest, to take up the position of international Treasurer of the TS. This year the TOS continued its relief efforts to communities in India, Nepal, Italy, US, and Puerto Rico that were affected by cyclones, hurricanes, and earthquakes. Facilitating funds for the education of underprivileged youth, especially girls, in Asia and Africa, continued to be a major

focus of the TOS. Medical camps were also organized. More than 1,000 patron members of 120 groups organized into 22 regions work in India. There was a change of guard at the top, with the retirement of Dr T. K. Nair after 6 years as National Secretary, who was replaced by Mr K. Sivaprasad.

The **Theosophical Publishing House** has undertaken new initiatives like online catalogues instead of printed ones, Amazon and Facebook stores for selling books, Twitter and WhatsApp channels for customer communication, multicurrency invoicing for foreign buyers, web-based operations in areas such as invoicing, inventory tracking, CRM, delivery management, and so on. New payment methods based on online gateways and mobile apps were adopted to discourage the use of cash, postal money orders, and old-fashioned cheques.

The **School of the Wisdom** conducted courses in Adyar from November 2016 to January 2017. The four two-week sessions consisted of "The Neuro-science of Meditation" by Drs Bhaskar and Rajni Vyas, "Self-Transformation and the Spiritual Life" by Mr Vicente Hao Chin, Jr, Dr Chittaranjan Satapathy's "Theosophy and the Upanishads", and Dr Amit Goswami's "Live Quantum, Be Happy".

The **Olcott Education Society** continued its stellar performance in providing free schooling, vocational training, and social welfare to socially and economically underprivileged children and youth. This year, the Olcott School catered to 378 children of primary and high school classes, the Social Welfare Centre took

care of 58 young children, and the Vocational Training Centre imparted free training to 26 young women in tailoring and clothes design, and 87 unemployed youngsters in soft skills.

Concerning the **international officers' travels**, in February I led the Board meetings at "Olcott", the **TSA** headquarters. On 2 March I gave a Thursday Night Lecture also at "Olcott" on "Theosophy: A Spiritual Legacy for Humanity", and another one on 27 April about "The History of Our Future". In the **Netherlands**, I codirected, with Mr Hao Chin, Jr, planning meetings held at the International Theosophical Centre (ITC) in Naarden from 4 to 8 March. Back in the **USA**, in April I gave a talk at the Detroit Lodge and at the Summer National Convention at "Olcott" in July titled "Adyar News". I also gave talks in Chicago and a couple of other places in Illinois. From the European Congress held in **Spain**, mentioned at the start of this address, I arrived at the TS in **Portugal** on 27 August to give talks in Lisbon and Porto. Then on to the **Netherlands**, where on 3 September, I held a lecture in the morning for members, and another in the afternoon for the general public, again at the ITC Naarden.

The international **Vice-President**, Dr Deepa Padhi, was requested in June to speak to Indian ladies in Houston, **Texas**, on "Women Empowerment Projects in TOS Odisha". They were inspired and are planning to support one of the projects in the coming year. Two of them wished to become members of the TOS India, and she gave them the forms for joining. Another lady donated \$300 for the Women

Empowerment Project of the Mahabharat Group, Odisha Region, India. In July Dr Padhi discussed with the Sr Manager, Human Resources, of Google in Sunnyvale, **California**, about pledging a matching grant with TOS India for educational projects. Google pledged to give 50% through their Sr Manager. She then contacted "Asha Princeton", an NGO which gives grants for educational projects in India, and she obtained the grant application forms. While still in California in July, she also gave an introductory short talk to a group of Junior Girl Scouts at their parents' request on "Meditation through Visualization". She not only talked about it, but *taught* them how to do it.

The international **Secretary**, Ms Marja Artamaa, was Chief Guest at the 107th annual conference of the **Karnataka** Theosophical Federation, held at Huliya in mid-October, along with the golden jubilee of the Sanmarga Theosophical Lodge. She gave a talk on "Inner and Outer Aspects of Universal Brotherhood", and gave a message at the valedictory programme. In February she gave a lecture for the Madras Theosophical Federation at **Adyar** on "Dialogue — More than Discussion".

She attended the GC Planning meeting at ITC **Naarden** in early March and inaugurated the South India Conference in **Adyar** in mid-April. Ms Artamaa attended the 38th European Congress in Barcelona, **Spain**, in late August, giving a talk on "From Definitions to Insight".

Ms Nancy Secrest, TOS International Secretary, moved to Adyar in June to take up her new additional role as international **Treasurer**. In the earlier months, she fulfilled lecture and workshop commitments to TS and TOS groups in the USA, visiting Oregon, California, Washington State, and New York. After her arrival in India, she traveled to Kakinada to participate as chief guest in TOS India's South Zonal Conference. She spoke about compassion, was honored to launch the Indian TOS website and enjoyed meeting many Indian members. At the end of July she gave a presentation at the Adyar Lodge, on the work of the TOS around the world. In August she made presentations at the summer school of the TS in England and the European Congress held in Barcelona, Spain, where she gave a talk with the title "Grow as the Flower Grows".

TIM BOYD

TREASURER'S REPORT 2016-2017

THE TREASURER'S REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2017

TREASURER'S REPORT 2016-2017

Respected members of the General Council,

The audited statements of accounts of the Society for the year ended 31 March 2017 are already in your hands. Please find hereunder the salient features of income and expenditure of the Society for the financial year 2016-17.

1. INCOME

The details of the income for the year ended 31st March 2017 compared to the previous year 2015-16 are as follows:

	Financial Year	
	2016-17	2015-16
	Rs.	Rs.
a) Gross interest received from the investments	26,228,841	26,383,835
b) Fees and dues	3,294,686	2,969,070
c) Licence Fees	2,900,000	200,000
d) Adyar Day Donations	208,954	284,648
e) General Donations	1,681,390	338,672
f) Surplus from Publishing House	—	775,928
Total	Rs. 34,313,871	30,952,153
Less: Interest transferred to earmarked funds	11,647,904	12,718,691
Total	<u>22,665,967</u>	<u>18,233,462</u>

The gross income for the year as shown above, has gone up by Rupees 33.61 lakhs compared to such income for the previous year. The income from practically all sources have gone up except Adyar Day Donations and the Theosophical Publishing House whose working resulted in loss. As commented in the previous year's report, though there was further fall in the rates of interest on our investment with Banks and other institutions due to change in the investment pattern, the fall in the income from interest was contained. There were further receipts from the sale of shares of Rs.4,618,368 received from N. Sriram Charitable Trust. Further there were substantial receipts of Rs.32.32 lakhs by way of contribution to the Adyar Estate Development Fund and Rs.8.65 lakhs for Cyclone Relief Fund during the year. I sincerely thank all the donors.

Thus, though there was record expenditure of Rs.36 millions during the year, the net deficit was contained at Rs.4.55 millions this year compared to Rs.5.32 millions of 2015-16 by exercising control over the expenditure.

2. EXPENDITURE

The net expenditure under different major heads after taking credit for the interest appropriated from respective funds, of the year compared to those of the previous year were as under:

	Financial Year	
	2016-17	2015-16
	Rs.	Rs.
a) Departments	13,096,664	9,014,595
b) Charitable Work	795,862	595,581
c) Propagation of Theosophy	1,896,939	3,369,888
d) International offices	2,136,249	1,918,829
e) Establishment	5,721,100	5,354,363
f) Other expenses	<u>3,566,439</u>	<u>3,304,867</u>
Total	<u>27,213,253</u>	<u>23,558,123</u>

The gross functional results of each Department are explained hereunder:

2 (a) Departments

	2016-17	
	Rs.	Rs.
(i) Bhojanasala and Leadbeater Chambers	692,570	1,207,189
(ii) Garden	1,680,566	1,844,743
(iii) Maintenance	<u>12,173,528</u>	<u>6,777,109</u>
Total Rs.	<u>14,546,664</u>	<u>9,829,041</u>

The result of combining the two kitchens of Bhojanasala and the Leadbeater Chambers was very apparent, in the decrease of total expenditure of these two sections to the extent of Rs.5.15 lakhs, i.e. by around 43%.

The income from Gardening had been continuously decreasing from year to year by around 2.5% to 3% while expenditure is mounting. Efforts may be concentrated on increasing the income as well as flora and fauna of the Adyar Estate.

The gross expenditure of Maintenance of Rs.122 lakhs having been accurately budgeted for the year, the income from Endowment Fund of Rs.11 lakhs was adjusted bringing the net expenditure to Rs.111 lakhs this year compared to Rs.68 lakhs of 2015-16.

2 (b) Charitable Work

The expenditure under different categories during the year compared to the previous year are as under:

	2016-17	2015-16
	Rs.	Rs.
i) Animal Welfare (including Dispensary)	1,363,180	1,569,387
ii) Education	1,934,375	1,824,803
iii) Welfare Grants	557,031	384,950
iv) Free Dispensary & Medical aid	309,904	329,281
v) School fees & books	213,000	210,500
vi) Social Welfare	140,264	38,377
vii) Cyclone Relief	182,267	219,000
viii) Others including TDS	<u>71,681</u>	<u>11,600</u>
	<u>4,771,702</u>	<u>4,587,898</u>

Our obligations under various Endowment Trusts were fully met by a total expenditure of Rs. 27 lakhs with increased expenditure of Rs. 2.84 lakhs compared to the previous year in the field of education from primary to professional levels.

2 (c) Propagation of Theosophy

	2016-17	2015-16
	Rs.	Rs.
i) Adyar Library & Research Centre	1,677,720	1,711,782
ii) Theosophical Publishing House	29,801	—
iii) The Theosophist & Adyar Newsletter	518,054	442,632
iv) Archives & Museum	417,016	582,666
v) Vasanta Press	652,691	-658,648
vi) School of Wisdom	280,641	51,840
vii) Book Gifts	198,324	119,730
viii) Convention & Seminars	1,953,281	1,169,074
ix) Others	1,657	3,238
x) Grant to Indian Section	—	<u>3,000,000</u>
Total Rs.	<u>5,729,185</u>	<u>6,422,314</u>

2 (c) (i) Adyar Library and Research Centre

	2016-17	2015-16
	Rs.	Rs.
i) Books publication – loss incurred	285,800	96,736
ii) Deficit for the year	1,677,720	1,771,782
iii) Income from Juhu Property (3 years)	188,081	—

The above three factors are separately given for the information of the members from the accounts of the Adyar Library. The stock of publications is increasing from year to year, since the sales of the journal are less than the free distribution. The Centre is now fully

equipped to digitize the palm leaf manuscripts as well as some of the selected old printed popular texts.

The Society has a site and building at Juhu in Mumbai which was let out to a school for the last many years presently at a rental of Rs.10,000/- per month. As on 31.3.2016 the balance of Rs.188,081/- in Society's name was received from the Secretary, Vasanta Cooperative Building Society, Mumbai after long follow up.

2 (c) (ii) The Theosophical Publishing House:

	<u>2016-17</u>	<u>2015-16</u>
i) Gross Profit from sale of publications	1,573,186	2,341,304
ii) Royalty and Copyright fees	236,138	164,672
iii) Profit from Wake up India & Digest	99,025	6,631
iv) Net deficit of the TPH	29,801	(+) 775,928

The results of different activities in the TPH are shown above and needs some re-examination of the whole structure.

(c) (iii) The Theosophist and Adyar Newsletter:

v) The loss on publication of the two journals — *THE THEOSOPHIST* and *ADYAR NEWSLETTER* — for the year was Rs.5.18 lakhs compared to last year's deficit of Rs.4.43 lakhs. A rough working of the cost of the two journals are as under:

	received	printed	cost	issue	(each)
1. The Theosophist	Rs.4.25 lakhs	2000	10.82 lakhs	Rs.45/-	Rs.10
2. Adyar Newsletter	Rs.0.55 lakhs	700	0.77 lakhs	Rs.9/-	—

2 (c) (iv) Vasanta Press:

Production account representing the printing activity of the Press had a net deficit of Rs.2.23 lakhs compared to the surplus of Rs. 1.95 lakhs of 2015-16. The reduction of printing work is said to be the cause of the deficit. The net deficit for the year 2016-17 was Rs.6.53 lakhs compared to that of Rs.2.52 lakhs for previous year.

2 (c) (e) Convention & Seminars:

A sum of Rs.19.53 lakhs was spent for organizing the Annual International Convention, where the boarding for the delegates was organised by the members of the Karnataka Federation, instead of by an outside contractor as in previous years. All the delegates appreciated the change. Besides, free transport was arranged to and fro the Convention Venue to Bhojanasala and Leadbeater Chambers. The above and other expenses due to Vardha Cyclone increased the expenditure by Rs.7.84 lakhs compared to last year.

3. ESTABLISHMENT

The administrative expenditure on the establishment of other departments was maintained almost at the same level except by a marginal hike of Rs. 3.67 lakhs due to annual increments to the staff.

After the collapse of tensile roof of Adyar Theatre, it was decided by the Executive Committee to shelve the project. Consequently the Contractor was requested to take back material supplied by him and the cost thereof is under negotiation. In this context, the Society's statutory auditors estimated the loss at Rs. 12 lakhs. Since the matter is under negotiation and not yet finalised, they agreed for a provision for expected loss of Rs. 6 lakhs during the current year.

4. NET DEFICIT

The net expenditure incurred after appropriating part of the income from relevant Endowment Funds and other income amounting to about Rs. 227 lakhs resulted in the net deficit of Rs. 45.47 lakhs compared to Rs. 53.25 lakhs of last year, recording a fall of around 15%.

5. CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

In the year under survey, an expenditure of Rs. 29.45 lakhs was incurred on acquisition cum improvement of assets compared to such expenditure of Rs. 38.94 lakhs for the previous year.

6. FUNDS & INVESTMENTS

During the year, the Society has received equity shares of the companies, the sale proceeds of which were credited to N. Sriram Endowment Fund to an extent of Rs. 46.18 lakhs. There are some shares of Tata Global Co. Ltd. worth approx. Rs. 1.5 lakhs which will be encashed in the next year. Under the statute, any shares of companies received by way of donation shall be encashed within one year from the date of receipt. The services of the two trustees of N.Sriram Charitable Trust are appreciated.

The investments of Society were higher as on 31.3.2017 at Rs.316.37 millions compared to Rs.302.83 millions as on 31.3.2016.

7. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

At the outset I bow in respect to the Great Ones for blessing me with opportunity to serve the Society for nearly three years.

I also express my sincere hearty gratitude for this wonderful opportunity to serve as Treasurer of the Society. I heartily thank our President, Mr Tim Boyd, all the members of the General Council and the Executive Committee. I sincerely welcome Ms Nancy Secrest, Acting Treasurer, and heartily wish her a very good time and success in her office.

Chennai

Date: 25-10-2017

K. Narasimha Rao
Honorary Treasurer

FEES AND DUES RECEIVED

From 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017 (in Rupees)

	Name of Section etc.	2015-2016	2016-2017
The Theosophical Society in:	Africa, East and Central	172088	655
	Africa, South	—	—
	Africa, Central	—	—
	Africa, West	—	—
	America Central, El Salvador	4736	4838
	Argentina	77867	100275
	Asia, East and South-East:		
	— Japan	14619	—
	— Malaysia	—	—
	— Singapore	—	—
	Australia	244449	—
	Austria	—	—
	Bangladesh	1622	2580
	Belgium	73011	31733
	Bolivia	35264	37216
	Brazil	—	1333630
	Canada	—	20149
	Costa Rica	66593	23759
	Chile	76527	51316
	Colombia	—	—
	Cuba	45539	—
	Dominican Republic	13621	14103
	England	446926	—
	Finland	110816	107900
	France	100358	72118
	Germany	53348	43711
	Greece	—	—
	Hungary	—	31533
	Iceland	—	—
	India	141437	132954
	Indonesia	13514	—
	Italy	172831	213139
	Ireland	11643	13659

Ivory Coast	—	—
Mexico	32168	38413
Netherlands, The	—	—
New Zealand	24072	87712
Norway	—	2000
Paraguay	—	—
Pakistan	—	—
Peru	10604	10517
Philippines, The	—	—
Portugal	—	—
Puerto Rico	17606	52103
Russia	8886	21768
Scotland	—	—
Slovenia	13299	13299
Spain	97649	—
Sri Lanka	—	—
Sweden	—	—
Switzerland	29669	20969
Togo	—	—
Ukraine	4740	5780
Uruguay	26625	28006
USA	632470	604665
Venezuela	39850	26440
Wales	12142	—

Lodges attached to Adyar:

Lotus Lodge (Croatia)	8031	13299
EL Sol (Equador)	—	—
Arc en Ciel and Ananda		
Lodges (France)	—	22633
Sofia Lodge (Indonesia)	—	4800
Covenant Lodge (Israel)	56549	63174
Fraternidad (Paraguay)	—	4500
Orlando Lodge (USA)	8988	9176
Blavatsky Lodge (Qatar)	—	—
Fellows-at-large	68913	15356
	<u>2969070</u>	<u>3279878</u>

**THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY,
BALANCE SHEET AS**

As at 31-3-2016	LIABILITIES	Schedule No.	As at 31-3-2017	
Rs.			Rs.	Rs.
43,726,731	General Fund:		38,652,304	
250,234	Balance as per last Balance Sheet		—	
43,976,965	Add: Transferred from OES		38,652,304	
5,324,661			4,547,286	
38,652,304	Less: Deficit for the year.			34,105,018
192,051,830	Endowment Funds	7		197,820,198
93,507,197	Other Funds	8		101,731,790
15,814,249	Current Liabilities and Provisions	9		15,738,094
1,243,000	Legacy Deposits			1,243,000
341,268,580	TOTAL			350,638,100

This is the Balance Sheet referred to in our report.

For SRIHARI & CO.,
Chartered Accountants

CHENNAI
21.07.2017

E. S. NEELAKANTAN
Partner

ADYAR, CHENNAI 600 020
AT 31ST MARCH 2017

As at 31-3-2016	ASSETS	Schedule No.	As at 31-3-2017	
Rs.			Rs.	Rs.
16,916,993	Fixed Assets	1		17,679,786
	Investments: (At cost)	2		
302,831,706	In Scheduled Banks and Financial Institutions			316,374,346
	Current Assets, Loans and Advances:			
10,340,609	Stocks	3	8,682,540	
714,694	Sundry Debtors	4	673,906	
5,057,626	Loans and Advances	5	1,893,132	
5,406,952	Cash and Bank Balances	6	5,334,390	
21,519,881				16,583,968
341,268,580	TOTAL			350,638,100

Schedule Numbers 1 to 9 and Notes on Accounts
form part of the Balance Sheet.

For and on behalf of the Executive Committee of
THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

K. NARASIMHA RAO
Hon. Treasurer

**THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY,
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT**

Year ended 31-3-2016	EXPENDITURE	Schedule No.	Year ended 31-3-2017
Rs.			Rs.
9,014,595	Departments	(A)	13,096,664
595,581	Charitable Work	(B)	795,862
3,369,888	Propagation of Theosophy	(C)	1,896,939
1,918,829	International Offices	(D)	2,136,249
5,354,363	Establishment	(E)	5,721,100
3,304,867	Other Expenses	(F)	3,566,439
23,558,123	TOTAL		27,213,253

For SRIHARI & CO.,
Chartered Accountants

CHENNAI
21.07.2017

E. S. NEELAKANTAN
Partner

ADYAR, CHENNAI 600 020

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2017

Year ended 31-3-2016	INCOME	Year ended 31-3-2017	
Rs.		Rs.	Rs.
775,928	Theosophical Publishing House		
338,672	General Donations		1,681,390
26,383,835	Interest Received	26,228,841	
12,718,691	Less : Transferred to Various Funds	11,647,904	
13,665,144			14,580,937
2,969,070	Fees and Dues		3,294,686
200,000	License Fees		2,900,000
284,648	Adyar Day Donations		208,954
5,324,661	Deficit		4,547,286
23,558,123	TOTAL		27,213,253

Schedules A to F and Notes on Accounts form part of the Income & Expenditure

For and on behalf of the Executive Committee of
THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

K. NARASIMHA RAO
Hon. Treasurer

THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY, ADYAR, CHENNAI 600 020
SCHEDULES FORMING PART OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE A/C: 2016-2017

HEAD OF ACCOUNT	EXPENDITURE	FUNDS TRANSFERRED	BALANCE
<u>Departments (Schedule A)</u>			
Bhojanasala & LBC	692,570	-	692,570
Garden	1,680,566	350,000	1,330,566
Maintenance	12,173,528	1,100,000	11,073,528
	14,546,664	1,450,000	13,096,664
<u>Charitable Work (Schedule B)</u>			
Animal Welfare	574,976	574,976	-
B. M. Animal Dispensary	788,204	788,204	-
Education	1,934,375	1,934,375	-
Welfare Grants	557,031	350,129	206,902
Free Dispensary and Medical Aid	309,904	-	309,904
School Fees and Books	213,000	-	313,000
Social Welfare Work	140,264	140,264	-
Others	11,625	5,625	6,000
Cyclone Relief	182,267	182,267	-
Theosophical Order of Service	60,056	-	60,056
	4,771,702	3,975,840	795,862
<u>Propogation of Theosophy (Schedule C)</u>			
Adyar Library and Research Centre	1,677,720	1,400,000	277,720
The Theosophical Publishing House	29,801	-	29,801
<i>The Theosophist</i> and <i>Adyar Newsletter</i>	518,054	-	518,054
Archives and Museum	417,016	-	417,016
Theosophy Science Centre	1,157	-	1,157
Vasanta Press	652,691	-	652,691
School of the Wisdom	280,641	280,641	-
Book Gift	198,324	198,324	-
Information and Public Relations	500	-	500
Convention & Seminars	1,953,281	1,953,281	-
	5,729,185	3,832,246	1,896,939
<u>International Offices (Schedule D)</u>			
President and Vice-President	408,446	56,234	352,212
Treasurer	1,329,651	-	1,329,651
Secretary	454,386	-	454,386
	2,192,483	56,234	2,136,249
<u>Establishment (Schedule E)</u>			
Headquarters	400,414	-	400,414
General Manager's Office	251,914	-	251,914
Housekeeping	1,300,999	-	1,300,999
Sanitation	375,417	-	375,417
Security	3,452,356	60,000	3,392,356
	5,781,100	60,000	5,721,100
<u>Other Expenses (Schedule F)</u>			
Insurance	11,535	-	11,535
Legal and Court Expenses	120,363	-	120,363
Audit Fees	115,650	-	115,650
Rates and Taxes	1,570,460	-	1,570,460
Bank Charges	15,932	-	15,932
Depreciation	765,662	-	765,662
Motor Car Expenses	89,222	-	89,222
Miscellaneous	135,920	-	135,920
Provision for Gratuity	141,695	-	141,695
Provision for bad debts	600,000	-	600,000
	3,566,439	-	3,566,439
Grand Total (Rs.)	36,587,573	9,374,320	27,213,253

For **SRIHARI & CO.,**
Chartered Accountants

For and on behalf of the Executive Committee of
THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

CHENNAI
21.07.2017

E. S. NEELAKANTAN
Partner

K. NARASIMHA RAO
Hon. Treasurer

THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY
BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31-3-2019

(Rupees in Thousands)

EXPENDITURE					INCOME				
	Budget 16-17	Actuals 16-17	Budget 17-18	Budget 18-19		Budget 16-17	Actuals 16-17	Budget 17-18	Budget 18-19
Departments (Net Expenditure)					Propagation of Theosophy				
Bhojanasala & Leadbeater Chambers	2,413	693	2,000	1,300	Theosophical Publishing House	—	—	460	—
Garden	2,755	1,681	2,500	2,515	General Donations	500	1,681	6,500	7,150
Maintenance	12,284	12,174	20,000	16,235	Interest	15,000	14,581	10,000	10,000
Utilization from Other Funds	(3,000)	(1,450)	(3,000)	(3,000)	Membership Fees and Dues	3,000	3,295	3,000	3,000
Charitable Work					Licence Fees	—	2,900	1,200	200
Animal Welfare & BMAD	2,500	1,362	3,000	2,500	Miscellaneous Receipts	10	—	10	10
Education	3,500	1,934	3,500	2,500	Adyar Day Donations	200	209	200	200
Welfare Grants	200	557	200	350					
Free Dispensary & Medical Aid	350	310	500	500	Deficit	12,716	4,547	14,855	13,854
School Fees and Books	250	213	300	250					
Social Welfare Work	150	140	150	150					
HPB Hostel	150	—	150	150					
Cyclone Relief	—	182	—	—					
Others	6	12	10	10					
Theosophical Order of Service	—	60	—	—					
Utilization from Other Funds	(6,300)	(3,976)	(6,800)	(5,650)					
Propagation of Theosophy									
Adyar Library and Research Centre	1,696	1,678	2,300	2,315					
Theosophical Publishing House	158	30	—	51					
<i>The Theosophist</i> and <i>Adyar Newsletter</i>	425	518	500	857					
Wake Up India	—	—	200	87					
Vasanta Press	550	653	500	574					
Information and Public Relations	150	1	—	—					
Archives and Museum	700	417	700	700					
Theosophy Science Centre	300	1	100	10					
School of the Wisdom	200	281	200	300					
Book Gift	200	198	200	200					
Convention & Seminars	1,500	1,953	2,000	3,500					
IT	300	—	300	—					
Utilization from Other Funds	(3,346)	(3,832)	(4,700)	(6,315)					
International Offices									
President and Vice-President	250	408	500	500					
Treasurer	1,500	1,330	1,500	1,600					
Secretary	600	454	600	600					
Utilization from Other Funds	—	(56)	—	—					
Establishment									
Headquarters	500	400	500	200					
General Manager's Office	300	252	300	300					
Housekeeping	900	1,301	1,000	1,300					
Sanitation	700	375	900	900					
Security	4,000	3,452	4,500	4,500					
Utilization from Other Funds	(400)	(60)	(70)	(60)					
Other Expenses									
Insurance Premiums	25	12	25	25					
Legal Expenses	300	120	200	200					
Audit Fees	150	116	150	150					
Rates and Taxes	600	1,570	100	150					
Bank Charges	10	16	10	10					
Depreciation	600	766	800	900					
Motor Car Maintenance	150	89	150	150					
Miscellaneous	150	136	150	150					
Provision for Gratuity	1,000	142	100	150					
Provision for Labour	2,000	600	—	2,600					
	10,985	9,287	8,815	11,625		31,426	27,213	36,225	34,414

HEADQUARTERS

INDIA

OFFICERS AND HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS FOR 2017

Executive Committee:

1. Mr Tim Boyd
2. Dr Chittaranjan Satapathy
Dr Deepa Padhi
3. Ms Marja Artamaa
4. Mr K. Narasimha Rao
Ms Nancy Secrest
5. Mr S. Sundaram
6. Prof. R. C. Tampi
7. Mr Ram Kumar
8. Mr S. Harihara Raghavan
9. Dr M. V. Rengarajan
10. Prof. C. A. Shinde
11. Mr A. L. Somayaji

President

Vice-President (until 17 Apr 2017)
(from 18 Apr 2017)

Secretary

Treasurer (until 30 Jun 2017)

Treasurer (from 1 July 2017)

General Council Member

General Council Member

Member (from 17 Jan 2017)

Member

Member

Member

Member

General Manager

Mr S. Harihara Raghavan (until 16 Jan 2017)

Mr Ram Kumar (from 17 Jan 2017)

Adyar Library *Director (Sanskrit Studies)*
Librarian

Dr T. Narayankutty

Prof. C. A. Shinde

Editorial *Head*

Mrs Idarmis Rodriguez (until Nov 2017)

Mrs Clemice Petter (from 23 Nov 2017)

Garden *Superintendent*

Mr S. A. Sanghram (until 1 May 2017)

Mr Devadass (from 25 May 2017)

Housekeeping *Superintendent*

Mrs Vijaya Ravindran

Leadbeater Chambers and Bhojanasala

Superintendent

Mrs Veena Ramachandran

Maintenance *Hon. Superintendent*

Mr R. Somanathan

Medical Service *Doctors*

Dr S. D. Inbaraj & Dr R. Revathy

Museum and Archives *Officer in Charge*

Mrs Kusum Satapathy (passed May 2017)

Sanitation *Superintendent*

Mrs Vijaya Ravindran

School of the Wisdom *Assisting Director*

Mrs Nora Simon

Security *Superintendent*

Mr J. Suresh

Theosophical Publishing House *Manager*

Mr S. M. Umakanth Rao

Vasanta Press *Manager*

Mr V. Gopalan

OLCOTT EDUCATION SOCIETY

Chairman

Mr Tim Boyd

Secretary

Mr Jaikumar Kannan (from 18 Nov 2017)

Treasurer

Mr T. S. Jambunathan

Olcott Memorial School *Headmistress*

Mrs R. Lalita

Director

Dr P. Thirumalai

Social Welfare Centre *Manager*

Mrs R. Mythili

Vocational Training Centre *Director*

Mrs Lakshmi Narasimhan

Besant Memorial Animal Dispensary

Doctor

Dr Shravan Krishna (from 1 May 2017)

HPB Hostel *Warden*

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS 2017

National Societies and Sections	26
Regional Associations	13
Presidential Agencies	13
Lodges Attached to Adyar	8
Total Lodges	879
Total Centres	172
Total Membership 2016	25,533
Total Membership 2017	25,306

Section/Area	Number of		
	Lodges	Centres	Members
1. Africa, East and Central	5	-	146 S
2. Africa, South	6	-	135 S
3. Africa, West	11	-	242 S
4. America, Central	2	-	13 R
5. Argentina	17	8	303 S
6. Asia, South East	4	-	543 P
7. Australia	11	6	812 S
8. Austria	3	-	58 R
9. Bangladesh	8	-	300 P
10. Belgium	8	-	78 S
11. Bolivia	11	6	124 S
12. Brazil	33	20	676 S
13. Canada	5	2	124 R
14. Chile	3	-	47 R
15. Colombia	4	4	28 P
16. Costa Rica	5	-	52 P
17. Cuba	12	-	572 S
18. Dominican Rep.	2	1	34 P
19. England	33	-	794 S
20. Finland	22	1	379 S
21. France	20	4	315 S
22. Germany	7	2	126 S
23. Greece	10	-	147 S
24. Hungary	3	-	32 P
25. Iceland	8	-	283 S
26. India	408	-	11,394 S
27. Indonesia	15	1	209 S
28. Ireland	2	2	77 R

Section/Area	Number of		
	Lodges	Centres	Members
29. Italy	27	21	925 S
30. Ivory Coast	3	-	22 R
31. Mexico	12	5	148 S
32. Netherlands	9	6	323 S
33. New Zealand	13	4	619 S
34. Norway	-	2	19 R
35. Pakistan	NA	NA	NA (A)
36. Peru	2	-	33 P
37. Philippines	20	10	235 S
38. Portugal	10	2	113 S
39. Puerto Rico	3	-	40 P
40. Russia	8	1	133 P
41. Scotland	3	-	129 R
42. Slovenia	4	-	55 R
43. Spain	14	5	322 S
44. Sri Lanka	3	-	182 P
45. Sweden	6	1	151 S
46. Switzerland	2	2	27 P
47. Togo	2	-	25 R
48. Ukraine	6	3	100 R
49. USA	35	46	3320 S
50. Uruguay	5	-	58 R
51. Venezuela	2	-	15 P
52. Wales	4	1	68 R
Total	871	166	25,105

Lodges/Members Attached to Adyar

	Lodges Centres Members		
	Lodges	Centres	Members
1. Croatia, Lotus Lodge	1	-	20 L
2. Ecuador, El Sol Lodge	1	-	12 L
3. France, Arc-en-ciel & Ananda Lodges:	2	1	33 L
4. Israel, Covenant Lodge	1	5	67 L
5. Paraguay, Fraternidad	1	-	16 L
6. Qatar, Blavatsky Lodge	1	-	9 L
7. USA, Orlando Lodge	1	-	15 L
7. Fellows-at-Large	-	-	29
Grand Total	879	172	25,306

S= Section, R= Regional Association, A=Presidential Agency, L= Lodge attached to Adyar

Ivory Coast, Mexico, Scotland, Togo and Ecuador have figures of previous year in the absence of fresh data

THE THEOSOPHICAL PUBLISHING HOUSE

The Publishing House continued to print and sell books while remaining above the break-even point. Book sales for the financial year ending March 2017 was INR 33 lakhs (3.3 million).

The TPH website <adyarbooks.com> was renewed, with online catalog replacing printed catalogues and Excel files.

Amazon store was launched, and the first year (Sep-16 to Jul-17) saw a sale of INR 1.25 lakh (125,000).

Facebook site and Twitter account were created at the same time, as channels.

Web-based invoicing, inventory-tracking, and customer contact applications were adopted, with advanced reporting, including on-demand balance-sheet and P&L Statements.

Multi-currency invoicing (British Pound, Australian Dollar, and Euro) in addition to Indian Rupee and US Dollar was introduced. It is expected that foreign buyers will benefit due to reduced Bank fees as a result.

International buyers received further benefit in prices as reduced prices in

Indian Rupees was offered to them instead of the USD pricelist.

For buyers in India, TPH tied up with prominent vendors to make it easier to pay.

- Online payment gateway RazorPay, allows TPH customers to make payment online via credit/debit card, or bank transfer.

- Mobile payment is now possible with PayTm, a popular provider of payment services via smartphone.

- Wireless card reader was introduced at the bookshop and TPH office to swipe domestic and international cards.

- Cash, Postal Money Orders, and old-fashioned checks continue to be accepted; however their use is discouraged.

Measures were taken to overcome the issues arising due to parcel deliveries: TPH

- tied up with several courier vendors for small and bulk parcels;

- enabled real-time online tracking of parcels, and

- automated notification of parcel dispatch and delivery

Mr S. M. Umakanth Rao

Manager

THE ADYAR LIBRARY AND RESEARCH CENTRE

It was with the intention of reviving the study of oriental literature, philosophy and religion, and encouraging scholars in Indian studies that Col. H. S. Olcott established the Adyar Library and Research Centre in 1886. Dr T. Narayanan Kutty is the present Director and Prof. C. A. Shinde is the Chief Librarian, with 14 Staff functioning under the guid-

ance of the International President Mr Tim Boyd.

The New Year 2017 activity started by the visit of Prof. Francis X. Clooney SJ, Director, The Center for the Study of World Religions, Harvard University on 10 January 2017. He addressed the memorable gathering of Sanskrit scholars and students of the School of the Wisdom

in The Theosophical Society, Headquarters Hall on "The Challenges of Interreligious learning specifically Hindu-Christian in the 21st Century". Mr Tim Boyd presided over the function.

University of Madras Department of Philosophy invited Prof. C. A. Shinde to deliver the Nimishakavi K. Subbaiah Naidu Satsangi Endowment Lecture on 8 March 2017 on the topics "Theosophy: A way of Living and Way to Wisdom" and "Human Regeneration". He also gave a lecture on 2 July on "Sri Ramanuja in the Light of Theosophy" on the 1000th Birth Anniversary of Sri Ramanuja.

Research Work in Progress

The works related to the Adyar Library Research Journal *Brahmavidyā* and other publication of books are entrusted to the Director T. Narayanan Kutty and Ms T. M. Ramani (Research Officer). Mrs S. Jayanthi, and Mrs Maheshwari are helping them in typing and processing the reprint work, and so on. Neeta Agrawal helps in the design of the cover page.

Recent Publications

1. *Brahmavidyā*, vol. no. 80 (2016)
2. *Samnyāsavicārah*, Adyar Library Pamphlet Series, no. 66 — Dr S. Bhuvaneshvari
3. *Jñānāṃkuśam* Adyar Library Pamphlet Series, no. 67 — Dr Radha Raghunathan
4. *Brahmavidyā*, vol. no. 81 (2017) — Special volume in commemoration of 1000th birth anniversary of Sri Ramanuja.

Works Selected for New Publication

1. *Advaitasiddhipatram* — Dr S. Bhuvaneshvari

2. *Vivekamukuraḥ* — Mrs Padma Padmanabhan

3. *Mahāvākyārthamañjarī* — Dr Saswati Mukherjee

4. *Bhāvajñānaprakāśana* of Śivarāma Śastri with translation — Dr S. Bhuvaneshvari

5. *Śāstradīpika* of Pārthasārathi Miśra with comm. *Mayūkhāvalī* — Swami Chitganana

6. *Naiṣkarmya-siddhi-vivaraṇam* named *Vidyāsurabhi* of Jñānamṛtayati — Swami Chitganana

7. *Tattvasūddhi* notes and English transcription — Dr Saswati Mukherjee

8. *Sūtrārthabodhinī* — Ms T. M. Ramani

9. *Yājñikyupaniṣad-Vivaraṇam* with translation — Ms T. M. Ramani

10. *Aṣṭaślokī* with different commentaries — Dr Radha Raghunathan

11. *Nānārthaśabdaratnam* with translation — Dr M. Uma Maheswari

12. *Āpastamba-śulbasūtra*, the commentary of Sundararājan, a book on geometry in comparison with modern geometrical calculations — Smt. Lakshmi S., MCA, MA (Skt).

The work of automation, and digitalization of Hinduism books was completed. Total of 30000 books were arranged and books in bad condition were scanned.

In addition to the regular Library display there was a special exhibition of photographs on the flora and fauna of Adyar, photographed by Prof. A. Chandrasekharan. The exhibition continued all through the year including Sundays. Over 2,000 persons, including students from Chennai schools visited the photo exhibition.

Ms Janet M. of the University of Califor-

nia got a fellowship for her research from the American Institute of Indian Studies and completed her research this year.

During the year, the Library was used by 1268 out of 1008 registered readers and 260 out of 740 registered borrowers who consulted 3404 books, and borrowed 387 books and 359 Manuscripts.

Acquisition of books: 6 books were purchased, 408 accessed, and 611 catalogued and added to the library collection. Gifts received were: 402 books, from the President's office, TPH, Secretary's office, TPH Wheaton, and the Rashtriya

Sanskrit Samsthan, Siddha Yoga Research Centre and many other donors, 165 books were downloaded.

Conservation of books: 605 hardcover books and 595 softcover books were repaired, 700 bound, 79 photocopied, and 1250 wrapper-pasted, besides fumigation work.

Cataloguing of books and manuscripts: 2000 books were catalogued and entered, 2500 books checked, 220 books scanned, and 429 manuscripts scanned.

Prof. C. A. Shinde
Librarian

THE SCHOOL OF THE WISDOM

The School of the Wisdom conducted four courses in Adyar in the reporting year. The November course introduced us to the anatomy and functioning of the human brain, with its implications to meditation: "The Neuroscience of Meditation", directors Dr Bhaskar Vyas and Dr Rajni Vyas. In December we studied the Upanishads' teachings applied to our daily lives: "Theosophy and the Upanishads",

director Dr Chittaranjan Satapathy. In January theosophists were offered the self-awareness course: "Self-Transformation and the Spiritual Life", director Mr Vicente Hao Chin, Jr., followed by an introduction to quantum physics and its transforming insights into liberation: "Live Quantum, Be Happy", director Dr Amit Goswami.

Mrs Nora Simon
Assisting, The School of the Wisdom

ARCHIVES AND MUSEUM

The yeoman services rendered by Mrs Kusum Satapathy, Mrs Laura Rodriguez and Mr Diego Fernandes during the year need special mention. Mr Bernd Jesse's contribution to the Archives & Museum was extraordinary including his unassuming work done for the convention. Although it was for a brief period, Mr Ariel from Argentina, Mr Edwardo from Brazil and Ms Silvia from France worked in the Archives. Mr Vinay Patri was responsible

for the presentations at the Great Banyan Audio Visual Centre. The present Adyar Archives team consists of Mrs Vedavathy who does scanning, Mr Mohan who does cleaning, polishing and other odd jobs and Ms Jaishree who takes care of mails, requests from researchers, scanning, and so on. More members joining the team even for short periods would be welcome.

During the year 21 researchers had used the Archives. The researchers hailed from or

the area of research was related to Australia, Finland, France, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Japan, Poland, Russia, Ukraine, UK & USA. A highlight of the year was the digitalization of H. P. Blavatsky's scrapbooks, a mammoth work thanks to Messrs Diego, Edwardo & Ariel.

For the 2016 Convention, there was an exhibition of Moghul & Rajput paintings in the Museum and Ms Mary K. Neff's collection at the Archives.

Ms Jaishree Kannan
Office in Charge

OLCOTT EDUCATION SOCIETY

Olcott Memorial Higher Secondary School continued to provide free education to economically underprivileged children. The school had 378 students on its rolls — 143 girls and 235 boys. All the students were provided with free textbooks, notebooks, stationery supplies, lunch and two sets of uniforms.

The year saw a generous donation of ₹ 3.5 crores (₹ 35 million) towards the corpus fund from a patron, Wiprocares, who has been supporting the school with annual contributions in the past few years.

Nalandaway, an NGO involved in integrating art and academics has been supporting the primary teachers with training.

In the 12th grade exam conducted by the Government, of the 51 students who appeared, 45 passed. S Prashanth, Commerce Stream, brought glory to the school with his stellar performance score of 199/200.

In the class 10 exam, 36 of the 46 students who appeared passed.

The performances of the students were better in both the exams when compared with the previous years.

In sports the students continued to perform well in carrom, kabaddi and handball at the zonal and district levels.

Dr R Revathy ensured the health of

the children by holding regular health check-ups. This effort was supplemented by Rotary Club Mitra who organized a special eye-screening camp for the students.

At the Social Welfare Centre (SWC) 58 children were enrolled during the year and continued to be nurtured and cared for by the Administrator and staff of the SWC. On 26 Jan 2017, Republic Day the President Mr Tim Boyd hoisted the National flag.

In December 2016 the centre was badly hit by the Vardha cyclone and the classrooms suffered extensive damages. The roofs were repaired during this summer and the buildings given a facelift. A new toilet block and water purification plant were also built in the premises.

Vocational Training Centre continued to provide free courses in tailoring, dress designing, drafting, layout, cutting and stitching of materials for children, and hand embroidery. 26 students enrolled in the course. The centre got a handsome donation of 13 sewing machines, refrigerator and kitchen items. This has immensely motivated the students who are geared up to showcase their skills during the Convention.

Ms Anis Fathima, a student at VTC,

attended a workshop on making musical instruments at Auroville.

HPB Hostel: No students were housed in the Hostel as it was taken up for renovation last year.

The Unnati initiative continues to offer a 50-day programme which provides free soft-skills training to unemployed youth,

and school dropouts from the marginalized sections of society. Infrastructure support was provided from the OES and TS. Of the 87 students who completed the course, 82 got placed by Unnati through corporate tie-ups and 5 became self-employed.

Ms Sripriya Raghavan
Secretary, Olcott Education Society

BESANT MEMORIAL ANIMAL DISPENSARY

The animal dispensary has two full time vets. Dr Radhika, who was appointed in March, is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the shelter. The website for BMAD has been completed. A donation for the renovation of the cat shelter has been given and the work has started. Mr Varun Manian from Radiance Realty promised to give their CSR funds to BMAD, the expectation is to receive around Rs. 20 lakhs. Two ponies have

been rescued. Both are disabled with difficulty to walk, and are getting a lot of attention from everyone in the premises of BMAD. This year a small place behind the boundary of BMAD, in the Sapota Garden has been given to accommodate one camel, rescued from a temple, and other large animals that eventually may need a place after being rescued.

Mr Shravan Krishnan
Manager, BMAD

BESANT SCOUT CAMPING CENTRE

Thirteen institutions and scout groups utilized services of the Besant Scout Camping Centre. Around 1,400 children benefited through camping

activities in line with theosophical values.

Mr A. Victor Frank
Besant Scout Camping Centre

THE THEOSOPHICAL ORDER OF SERVICE

The Theosophical Order of Service (TOS) is currently present in 35 of the 55 countries where the TS is active. The newest group is TOS Uganda and activity in Bangladesh has been renewed thanks to the efforts of Presidential Representative and TOS India Director Birendra Bhattacharyya.

The biggest TOS news this year is that

TOS International Secretary, Nancy Secrest, moved to the TS international headquarters at Adyar and thus the TOS administrative office also moved to Adyar. David Sztain of TOS Canada accepted the position of editor of *TOS: Intouch on-line e-Newsletter* this year. The e-newsletter keeps members and friends informed about the latest happenings in

the International TOS and in the various TOS countries. While the webmaster, Rozi Ulics, is creating a new website the website address currently remains <international.theoservice.org>. The activity on TOS International Facebook Page, <facebook.com/tosinternational/> is increasing, and the following is growing.

The dedication to service of TOS groups and individuals around the world benefited thousands of poor students, needy persons, ailing patients, aged men and women, the blind, handicapped, orphans and animals. This year many of the TOS groups worldwide collected and/or donated money to help with relief efforts, after the cyclone that devastated the grounds and some of the buildings at Adyar last December, and the hurricanes in the United States and Puerto Rico.

Of note this year was the great fundraising success of the 180 TOS workers in France who raised an average of € 18,000 per year. Their main focus was the education of underprivileged youth. This year school fees were paid for children in a Kolkata slum, after-school tutoring was offered to children in Orai and the studies of Tibetan monks in Dharamsala were

supported. TOS France, in conjunction with the Liberal Catholic Church, also supports a school in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo where they paid for uniforms and stationery for 100 children. Other projects supported the prevention of violence toward women in France and abroad, the knitting of teddy bears for Syrian refugee children and continuing support to those working with victims of the earthquakes in Nepal and Italy.

The TOS Australia's fundraising efforts included Brisbane's "Open Circle Saturdays" that provided special talks, DVDs and sometimes afternoon tea with classical concerts. Among the many activities the Australian TOS supported this year, AU\$9,000 were sent to the TOS Italy to assist them with their work with Syrian refugees. It is truly heartening to see the groups in various TOS countries supporting each other in this way.

The work that TOS groups around the world are doing follows H. P. Blavatsky's teachings in *The Key to Theosophy* that theosophists should live a life of active altruism.

Mrs Nancy Secrest
International Secretary, TOS

IN

REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

PRESIDENTIAL AGENCIES

LODGES ATTACHED TO ADYAR

(Where necessary, reports have been translated, edited or condensed)

NATIONAL SOCIETIES AND SECTIONS

AFRICA, EAST AND CENTRAL

Founded 1947, membership 146. The **East and Central African Section** is composed of Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, and Zambia. At present Uganda falls under Kenya Region. The highlight of this year was the visit of Mr Vicente Hao Chin Jr from the Philippines. He was the guest speaker at the Section's 48th Convention, held at Kampala, Uganda from 12 to 14 April 2017. The theme of the Convention was "The Art and Science of Happiness". Mr Hao Chin toured all the Regions in East & Central Africa during his 19 days' trip delivering talks and conducting a seminar in Nairobi. Mr Narendra M. Shah is the General Secretary of the East & Central African Section for the two years term, 2017 to 2019. Assistant General Secretaries for the three Regions are: Mr Mitesh H. Doshi — Kenya Region, Mr Harsukh Dubal — Tanzania Region, and Mr Jayu Sampat — Zambia Region. In East & Central Africa, Nairobi Lodge is a model Lodge and has a good membership with weekly activities. After a few years gap the Mufulira Lodge organized a public speaking contest under the TOS, and the event elicited good response and publicity for the TS. All Lodges observed important theosophical days: Adyar Day, White Lotus Day, Buddha Purnima, Annie Besant's Birthday and Foundation Day. Nairobi Lodge (Kenya) held programmes in English and Gujarati. The Dar-es-

Salaam Lodge (Tanzania) held its 48th Convention at Kampala. The Nile Lodge, Kampala (Uganda) hosted the East & Central Africa's 48th Convention from April 12 to 14, 2017, and delegates from Kenya, Tanzania, and Zambia attended. In Zambia, the Mufulira and Kitwe Lodges held regular meetings during the year under report. The Kitwe Lodge hired a librarian to keep the library open during office hours. The TOS is active in the Nairobi, Dar-es-Salaam, Nile and Kitwe Lodges. In the Nairobi Lodge Mrs Usha Shah is heading the activities for supporting medical students. Five hundred trees were planted in a Kenyan forest. Food was distributed during the famine relief programme. Mrs Deepa Kapoor from Dar-es-Salaam Lodge facilitated the distribution of food to orphans and needy. The Nile Lodge organized a TS book fair at a Christmas Bazaar which was held by the Inter-national Women's Organization, and the one-year lunch sponsored for an orphanage was also arranged by them. The Kitwe Lodge had its first TOS activity — they engaged in an environment project. The Nairobi Lodge has a book stall with a rich collection of titles for sale. Nairobi Lodge amended some clauses of its constitution, which was approved at its Annual General Meeting on 25 February 2017.

Mr Narendra M. Shah
General Secretary

AFRICA, SOUTH

Founded in 1909, membership 135. The Section has six Lodges which continue to hold public lectures. Activities in Lodges differ according to their membership size and number of events held. In Johannesburg the main focus is the theosophical course and HPB study group. Public lectures twice a month, Physical and Cosmic Science study group, Transpersonal Psychology/Consciousness study group and Health and Healing group are conducted once a month. Pretoria holds public lectures every Sunday night, holds study groups, Tai Chi classes, and periodic esoteric fairs as fundraisers. Other Lodges

meet less frequently with lectures and study group activities. Johannesburg, Pretoria, Cape Town and Durban have their own properties where they conduct their activities. As part of TOS activities, Johannesburg supports an abandoned baby shelter and funds one child at a special needs school, both in the neighborhood. Plans for the implementation of a diploma course have been made for the near future. The Section Committee is currently preparing for bi-annual AGM and Convention in March 2018 to be held in the Pretoria Lodge.

Mr Desmond Douglas Chapman
Deputy General Secretary

AFRICA, WEST

Founded in 1956, membership 242. The West Africa Section has 11 active Lodges and 6 Study Centers. The Section held its Convention from 8 to 9 July, under the theme: "Technology, Theosophy, and Science". The lectures were: Technology and World Misery; Technology in the Light of Theosophy; and Technology and

Spirituality. After each lecture the public was encouraged to participate with questions or adding new views. During the Convention the Section held a Council Meeting, and the decisions made during the meeting were communicated to the Lodges.

Mr John O. Boakye
General Secretary

ARGENTINA

Founded 1920, membership 303. In November 2016 the Section held a national event in San Lorenzo City with the theme "Genealogy of Man" by Annie Besant. Members from different branches of the Section gathered. In Buenos Aires a national event under the theme: "Reincarnation and Life after Death" was attended by over 70 members with visitors coming from different cities of Argentina.

Ms Ema Souza, the General Secretary from Uruguay also attended the meeting. The Summer and the Winter Schools took place in the Theosophical Center in San Rafael. The Summer School was held in January with a seminar on "Towards the Experience of Unity" by an eminent philologist Mr Eduardo Gramaglia. In the afternoons different Branches pre-sented works on "Beyond Illusion, a Call to

Unity". The Winter School was conducted by Mr Diego Fernandes and Mrs Maria Laura Rodriguez with the theme: "Tat Tvam Asi — You Are That", exploring Unity through HPB's Diagram of Meditation. An atmosphere of quietness encouraged a meditative attitude, which was the heart of the School. A special children's activity was also organized, so that the parents could attend the School programme. The General Secretary attended the International Convention in Adyar and the meeting in Naarden, for the Strategic Plan. Mrs Ananya Sri Ram Rajan from USA visited Buenos Aires, San Rafael, Mendoza and Rosario in June 2017. During her stay she conducted workshops on "Therapeutic Touch" and "Gender, Identity and Difference". In

September Mr Pablo Sender from USA gave lectures in Rosario and Rio Cuarto on "Awakening an Enlightened Mind". In February 2017 a new website was opened: <www.sociedadteosofica.org.ar> along with a Youtube channel which includes Tim Boyd's video blog with Spanish subtitles. In March 2017 the national magazine, *Theosophy in Argentina*, was resumed quarterly. The Theosophical Order of Service (TOS) organized musical events in order to collect funds to assist an animal dispensary and public hospitals. In Buenos Aires an art workshop was organized by Prof. Anabela David: "Painting the Invisible".

Mr Esteban Langlois
General Secretary

AUSTRALIA

Founded 1895, membership 812. The National Convention was held in January on the theme "Eastern Spirituality, Psyche and the Human Journey" in Hobart. The School of Theosophy was held in Launceston. Mr Pablo Sender, from the USA, was the chief guest of the School and spoke at several lodges during his lecture tour. The General Council approved the development of a draft business plan for the Section. A new, dynamic national website is being developed to enable Lodges/Branches to have information online. The General Secretary visited nearly all TS centres in Australia, also attended the Indo-Pacific Conference in New Zealand and the International Convention at Adyar, India. The National Council met in January

in Hobart and in June at the National Headquarters in Surry Hills. In January 2017, the National Council appointed Phillipa Rooke as its Vice-President and Chairman for a period of 12 months. A decision was made by the national Executive Committee that in future a limited number of questions from members will be permitted at Convention business meetings. The Education and Training Committee is working on the production of a comprehensive Educational Resources Catalogue of educational material available at the National Headquarters to be distributed to Lodges and Branches and a completed catalogue will be placed on the website. A course on "*The Secret Doctrine* — An Eclectic Introduction to

Its Study” was completed by the Education Coordinator. The course on “Understanding the Psychic World” featured on the programmes of several Lodges/Branches. A video about the resources available at the national Headquarters was completed and placed on the Section’s website. Handouts from Pablo Sender’s School of Theosophy and his two seminars while in Australia were sent to all Lodges/Branches. A new edition of *The Secret Doctrine*, the landmark classic of occult philosophy by H. P. Blavatsky, was acquired by the Campbell Theosophical Research Library and Archives. The winning thesis and essays for the John Cooper Memorial Prize 2016 were placed in the Campbell Library as well as an extensive collection of lectures, essays, articles, photographs, correspondence, and over 500 books received from the Krotana Institute of Theosophy, which was part of Joy Mills Collection. Facebook page continues to attract public attention with many likes on posts. A business plan and marketing strategy developed by the General Secretary was adopted by the National Council. The plan requires ongoing development and

review. The web page of the Section continues to have a good number of visitors and a new dynamic website with a fully functioning Content Management System, sophisticated billing system with user accounts and fully integrated social media has been implemented. State Representatives were elected: Gloria Yiangou (NSW), Franco Guazzelli (WA) and Kari Torgersen (Vic). A set of proposed amendments were presented by the Rules Committee and approved by the national Executive Committee and the National Council. The approved amendments were published in the November 2017 issue of *Theosophy in Australia* prior to voting. TOS in Australia reports an outstanding support for Syrian refugee appeals. The total sum of donations for the year under report was \$26500, the beneficiary were: Pakistan home schools, Pakistan educational sponsorships, Philippines Golden Link College, Syrian refugees (via TOS Italy), Adyar Olcott Memorial School, Adyar Animal Dispensary, Adyar Social Welfare Centre, Adyar HPB Hostel, and Assam Mobility Project.

Mrs Linda Oliveira
General Secretary

BELGIUM

Founded 1911, membership 78. In Belgium the activities are concentrated in the North and in the capital, Brussels. Ms Trần-Thi-Kim-Diêu conducted a two day seminar on the Indian epic the *Mahabharata* in Brussels. The New Year’s International Convention on “The Religions of the Future” had Mrs Vicente Hao Chin as guest speaker. It was also

during the International Convention that the new website of the section was launched. In April 2017 the one hundredth birthday of Yella, a longstanding member was celebrated with the International President and Ms Kim-Diêu participating through videoconference. The introductory study course developed in the 1980/90s by Dr Henriette van der Hecht was continued

during the year under report, and it is now available in Dutch language. The study centre Open Paradigma, started last year, evolved into a Lodge. TOS in Belgium has a monthly activity of healing meditation groups in Brussels and Antwerp. In Flanders the TOS organized a short, silent

hike in Nature together with the Lodge White Lotus, in the woods just across the border with Holland. Participants walked together in silence with intervals for listening to brief meditative texts.

Mrs Sabine Van Osta
General Secretary

BOLIVIA

Founded 1965, membership 124. Important memorial days were observed. From 30 September to 1 October the Section held the National Meeting in the city of La Paz with the theme: "The Theosophical Society, Why and What for It Was Founded". In La Paz the Lodges had studied a number of books from theosophical literature and held public meetings with video presentations of J. Krishnamurti's talks, and talks by know-

ledgeable members. In Cochabamba the work in the Lodges was mostly studies on various theosophical literature. In Santa Cruz a number of books by H. P. Blavatsky and others were taken up during the year. Study Groups in Urus, Tarija city, studied *The Mahatma Letters* along with many other theosophical texts.

Ms Guillermina Rios de Sandoval
Presidential Representative

BRAZIL

Founded 1920, membership 676. The Brazilian Section has 33 Lodges and 20 Study Groups spread around the country. The National Council met twice, in January during the Summer School and in July during the Winter School. The Summer School took place in the city of Aguas de Sao Pedro, the theme was "Karma and Dharma". The Winter School took place in Brasilia and had Mr Esteban Langlois, General Secretary of the Argentinian Section, as the guest speaker with the theme "Applied Theosophy: Abstract Teachings for a Concentrated Life". The second International Youth Meeting was held in February 2017 with the theme "Diversity as a Way to Universal Brotherhood". The

Regional Councils met twice during the year under report, and seminars and workshops were organized. TOS is active in the cities of Brasilia, Braganca Paulista, Joao Pessoa, Salvador, and Rio de Janeiro with many activities like assistance to the needy and fundraising for pointed organizations that are effectively assisting the underprivileged. The Brazilian Theosophical Publishing House has published four books: *The Creative Power* by Clara Codd; *Towards Discipleship* by J. Krishnamurti; *Karma and Dharma* by Annie Besant; and *The Real Work of the Theosophical Society* by N. Sri Ram. *Sophia* magazine has entered its fifteenth year with 636 subscribers and being sold at news stands all over the

country. Both theosophical centers, Raja Foundation and the Pitagoras Theosophical Institute, in the city of Sao Paulo, are working with lectures, courses and seminars. A

third meeting for strategic planning was held at Raja Foundation on 1 May.

Mr Sergio Carvalho de Moraes J
General Secretary

CUBA

Founded 1905, membership 572. The Cuban Section held its Annual Convention between 14 and 15 January with the theme "Seven Levels for Divine Love". Dr Isaac Jauli and Dr Enrique Reig, members from Mexico, visited Cuba from 15 to 22 March. They addressed public conferences about "The Inner Child" and also met members and talked on "How to Live Theosophy in the Modern World" and "The Philosophy of Impermanence". A weekend workshop, "Transforming the Control of Our Shadow over Our Lives" only for members was well attended. The Theosophical Summer School held from 26 to 27 July, was organized by the Lodges from Havana only for members. The theme taken up was: "Letters from the Masters of the Wis-

dom, First Series, compiled by Jinarajadasa". The publication of Cuban Theosophical Magazine *Revista Teosofica Cubana* continues as a quarterly electronic publication. The studies in the Lodges continue as in previous years, with several themes based on theosophical books and other lectures and articles from various authors. Cuba also studied J. Krishnamurti through his videos; *Esoteric Christianity* by Annie Besant; *Talks on the Path of Occultism* by Annie Besant and C. W. Leadbeater; *Pithagoras*; *Dhammapada*; *Inner Life* by C. W. Leadbeater; and some articles by H. P. Blavatsky, Joy Mills, John Algeo and Clara Codd. All Lodges celebrated the official dates of our Society.

Ms Barbara A. Fariñas Piña
General Secretary

ENGLAND

Founded 1888, membership 794. The English Section's Headquarters in London continues to hold several special events and regular studies on Theosophy and related subjects. In October 2016 Mr David Nieuwejaers led an introductory course on the ancient Theosophy of Plotinus entitled "The Return of the Soul to the One" and in September 2017 the History and Archives Group of TSE organized a very successful International Conference exploring the life and works of Annie Besant. Guest speakers came

from many countries including the USA, France, Italy, the Netherlands and England. Regular study courses have been held during the week and at weekends. Some of the course titles included *The Secret Doctrine*, "Ageless Wisdom for Everyone", "The Yoga Sutras of Patanjali", "Yoga Vasishtha", "After Death Consciousness" and "Processes and the Psychology of Inner Transformation and Self-Evolution". The Blavatsky Lodge and the Dhyana Centre hold weekly meetings at the Headquarters and the bookshop does

a reasonable trade. Leslie Price, Janet Lee, and others continue to catalogue and conserve our extensive archive material, which is considered to be vitally important to preserve TSE history for future generations. The Lancaster and Herne Bay Centres no longer meet and Coventry Lodge is closed. Two nearby Lodges, Bolton and Blackburn have merged. Other Lodges and Centres from north to south hold regular study days with public lectures and occasional conferences. Leeds Lodge published Tim Wyatt's book *Cycles of Eternity* and generously distributed it to all members in England and to TS sections around the world. The online Diploma Course has awarded the diploma certificate to over 100 participants in 2017 with many of them being from overseas. The in-house magazine *Insight* is issued three times a year to all members. The Foundation for Theosophical Studies (FTS) supports several

events each year. During the year under report it supported the Summer School, held near Birmingham entitled "Many Paths, One Goal". Mr Michael Gomes was present as the chief speaker. He gave three talks one being for the celebration of the one hundred years of Blavatsky Lectures in England. Ms Nancy Secrest, International Head of the TOS and International Treasurer also attended the School. The North-West Federation ran a weekend conference in May with the title "Theosophy and Expanding Consciousness". The FTS continues to produce the magazine *Esoterica* and supports a National Speakers Scheme. The National President attended the 38th European Congress in Barcelona and was presented with the EFTS Banner, for, in 2020 the English Section will be hosting the 39th European Congress.

Mrs Jenny Baker
General Secretary

FINLAND

Founded 1907, membership 379. The Annual Convention of the Finnish Section was held in Tampere on 8 April. The Summer School took place in June at Kreivila with the theme "Self-Transformation" with Mr Vicente Hao Chin Jr as guest speaker, and facilitator for his Self-Transformation seminar. As a result of the seminar a group of nine people came together as self-transformation facilitators. The School had a total of fifty participants and for the first time in Finland, simultaneous translation was made available for the participants. A new study group called "The Self-Transformation Study Group" began

in October 2016 in Helsinki, and based their studies on Hao Chin's book *The Process of Self-Transformation*. In Estonia the Lodges organized a Summer School in June with the theme "Possibilities of Human Life", a Winter Seminar in Tallinn in January, a "Secret Doctrine" study days in Tartu in May, and an Autumn Study Camp in August. A workers' meeting with discussions on TS work was arranged in Kreivila in August with the theme "Yoga and Health". A revised Finnish translation of H. P. Blavatsky's *The Secret Doctrine*, Volume I was published in June jointly by the TS, Kalevala and Minerva Lodges.

TS participated in two big fairs in Southern Finland selling books and being available for questions. Oulu Lodge organized a "Key of Knowledge Day" with theosophical lectures and a fair called "The Days of Light" with several theosophical lectures during the two-day programme. Blavatsky Lodge organized a "Key of Wisdom Day" with theosophical lectures, and Auinko Lodge held a summer weekend with a theme "Advice for the New Era". TOS in Finland continued fundraising by organizing a "Winter Event" in November and a "Spring celebration" in May. TOS also supports the Olcott

School, the Social Welfare Centre and the Boy's Hostel in Adyar. Kreivila, the Theosophical Course Centre in the south-western part of the country, had an active summer season with different kinds of courses, providing accommodation and vegetarian meals from June to September. Many videos of lectures were made available through internet in Vimeo and Youtube. E-Newsletters reached over 600 subscribers three times a month. The Finnish magazine *Teosofi* was published every four months.

Mrs Mirva Jaatinen
General Secretary

FRANCE

Founded 1899, membership 315. The French Section held its National Convention on the 24 and 25 June at the Headquarters in Paris with the theme "Spirituality in Daily Life". Mrs Angels Torra, General Secretary of the Spanish Section was the guest speaker and she also conducted a discussion after a symposium by newly trained speakers, and a video projection of J. Krishnamurti's talk. In Paris the Annie Besant, Blavatsky, Saint Jean, and Alcyone Lodges continued with meetings once a month. Courses were offered free of charge every fortnight. Video projections of J. Krishnamurti's talks, public lectures, and a speakers course for dedicated students were organized every quarterly. In Marseille, Shanty Lodge held meetings every fortnight with studies based on Annie Besant's books. In Reims, public lectures were organized once a month by the Olcott Lodge. In Orleans, Jeanne d'Arc

Lodge was steady. In Montpellier, The Song of Life Lodge studied H. P. Blavatsky's *The Secret Doctrine* and A. E. Powell's books. In Toulouse, Hilarion Lodge studied *The Masters and the Path* by C. W. Leadbeater. In Brittany, Latvia Lodge met to study various subjects linked with Theosophy. In Africa there has been a revival, several Lodges became active and two study groups were formed. Editions Adyar sent them several basic theosophical books. The magazine *Le Lotus Bleu* continued to be published ten times a year. Editions Adyar continued to publish books and run the bookshop open three afternoons per week. The Publishing House brought out reprints and new publications on Buddhism. The Library was open to the public in general once a week. The Healing Group met once a week, the service being free of charge.

Mrs Jeannine (Nano) Leguay
General Secretary

GERMANY

Founded 1902, membership 126. The Summer School which was held from 20 to 24 September was the main event in the German Section. The theme: "Does Mankind Steer into a Blind Alley? What Has Divine Wisdom/Theosophy to Set against It?" Dr Dietzfelbinger as the guest speaker talked about "Apocalypse Today — the Up-to-dateness of the Revelation to John". Further themes from members of the Society were on Dora Kunz: "The Holy Number 7", "A Letter from the Masters about God, Good and Bad", "Human Sufferings, Mind and Matter in Theosophy — Right and Wrong Actions". A Northern German meeting, organized by Gabriele Franklin, was held

in May at Travemünde, near Lubeck. Ms Manuela Kaulich was reelected as General Secretary with 98% of the votes. Gabriele Franklin continues as Assistant General Secretary. The Trust "Spirituell Leben" which was founded by Karl-Heinz Tackenberg was taken over by Manuela Kaulich. This Trust supports speakers and publications. The *Adyar* magazine continues to be published three times a year. Healing groups meet once or twice monthly for TOS work. A new flyer of the Theosophical Seal has been printed as a means to give a more professional impression to the public.

Mrs Manuela Kaulich
General Secretary

GREECE

Founded 1928, membership 147. The Greek Section celebrated Foundation Day, White Lotus Day, and Adyar Day. *The Mahatma Letters to A. P. Sinnett* was published. *Talks on the Path of Occultism* by Annie Besant and C. W. Leadbeater is being translated and will be published in three volumes. Eight Lodges in Athens

and two in the island of Crete have regular weekly or biweekly meetings with lectures and discussions on the objects of the Theosophical Society. The magazine *Ilisos* is given free to all members.

Mrs Eirimi Kefaloudi
General Secretary

ICELAND

Founded 1921, membership 283. For the fourth year the Summer School was held at The NLFi Spa and Medical Clinic in Hveragerdi with the theme: "Together to the Same Goal". Meetings are held weekly twice, with discussions on the practice of meditation or video followed by discussion. Public talks are advertised in the main news-papers and are free of

charge to the public in general. The Head of each Lodge is responsible for providing lecturers, their suggestions are discussed in meetings of the Board and the final decision is made. Lecturers are members of the Society, scholars, writers, artists, psychologists, professors of university and so on. The journal *Gangleri* is published as an annual issue and has more than 700

subscribers. The library and bookshop are open once a week before and during public talks. A rare book of poems by Atahualpa, the last Inca Emperor, was published. A selection of reprints from *Gangleri*, during the years 1926–1976, have been published as a book. The Newsletter *Mundilfari* is published three times during the year with news about the Icelandic Section. A web page is available for those who seek information, form and

membership application is also available on line. During the Annual General Meeting Mr Kristinn Agust Fridfinnsson was elected the new General Secretary. Board Members are as follows: Birgir Bjarnason — Vice General Secretary, Leifur H. Leifsson — Secretary, Magni Sigurhansson — Treasurer, Brynja S. Gisladdottir — Committee Member.

Mr Kristinn Agust Fridfinnsson
General Secretary

INDIA

Founded 1891, membership 11,394. It remains the largest section of the TS with 408 Lodges under 16 Federations. The 125th annual convention was inaugurated by International President Tim Boyd at Adyar on 1 January 2017. It witnessed a change of guard with Pradeep H. Gohil taking over as General Secretary from S. Sundaram, and Pradip Mahapatra being nominated as the Joint General Secretary. The short talks by O. P. Aneja, Nandita Kuldip, and P. S. P. Sarangi on “Self-Preparation Is an Important Aspect of Theosophical Work” were well received by the delegates.

The 15th East Zone TS & TOS Conference (including the Bangladesh Section) was held over two days in February 2017 on “Theosophy in Theory and Practice” with B. L. Bhattacharyya, the TOS National Director, as chief guest. “Theosophy — Defining the Indefinable” was the theme for the three-day 94th South India Conference at Adyar in April inaugurated by Marja Artamaa, the international Secretary, with the welcome address given by Mr

Gohil. It was attended by around 100 delegates. There were talks by four speakers followed by workshops.

The Section headquarters at Varanasi hosted the North India study camp held over three days in October 2016 on N. Sri Ram’s *An Approach to Reality* directed by Prof. R. C. Tampi. A seminar workshop entitled “An Introduction to Theosophy” was held in Varanasi in March 2017 for students with 25 participants, who later enrolled as members of the Society.

A series of over five study camps were conducted at the Himalayan Centre for Theosophical Studies, Bhowali, under the aegis of the Section and various Federations from April to June 2017 on topics such as Narada Bhakti Sutra (*Self Realization through Love* by I. K. Taimni), teachings of J. Krishnamurti, the Upanishads from a Theosophical perspective, *At the Feet of the Master*, and so on. A National Youth Camp attended by about 30 delegates was conducted at Bhubaneswar in August 2017 for three days with symposiums, debates, lectures, and study classes.

The TOS conducted a workers' camp at Bhowali in June 2017, and the East Zone conference as mentioned earlier. The South Zone conference was held over two days in July 2017 at Kakinada with Ms Nancy Secrest, TOS international Secretary as the chief guest. The North Zone conference was held in Varanasi in August 2017 with the General Secretary officiating as chief guest. Activities included providing relief to flood victims, building schools and vocational training centres and so forth.

Pradeep Gohil, the General Secretary, was one of the 21 invitees at the five-day Brainstorming and Strategy Planning meeting at ITC Naarden in March 2017, which was organized by Vicente Hao Chin, Jr, and Tim Boyd to plan the way forward. Mr Gohil was given the goal of proposing a theosophical youth exchange programme for about 100 students spanning at least 20 countries. He, along with Pradip Mahapatra, participated in a number of Zonal and Federation conferences, symposia, and seminars through the year in India.

Visits and talks were conducted at various locations during the year by the National Lecturers C. A. Shinde, S. K. Pandey, L. Nagesh, Shikhar Agnihotri, Varsha B. Patel, R. V. Vastrad, B. D. Tendulkar, and

Avantika Mehta. The Board of Studies for popularizing Theosophy in India was re-organized and is taking a number of steps for better effectiveness such as dividing the Section into four Zones which will interact with the Federations and take direct action for unrepresented areas.

The Indian Theosophist, the mouth-piece of the Indian Section had a special issue commemorating the 100th anniversary of Annie Besant's elevation to the presidency of the Indian National Congress, the organization that eventually secured independence for India.

The Central Property Committee set up last year at Varanasi to manage the properties of the Society has started work on reconstruction of facilities, obtaining legal title for properties, and so on. This includes the site of the Section headquarters in Varanasi.

Financially, there has been a sharp decline of income, a primary reason being the fall of bank interest rates, which can hopefully be made up with more donations, and monetization of unused fixed assets. Going forward, a software system is planned for maintaining and managing membership information accessible by the Section, Federations, Lodges and members.

Mr Pradeep H. Gohil
General Secretary

INDONESIA

Founded 1912, membership 209. Two new Lodges were Chartered in 2017, Blavatsky Lodge and Saraswati Lodge in Jakarta. Report of activities was missing.

Mr Widyatmoko
General Secretary

ITALY

Founded 1902, membership 925. The Italian Section with its 27 Groups and 21 Centers, carried out meetings for “members only” and meetings open for public. It is reported that in different cities the Italian open-to-public seats and libraries. TS owns some cities Groups and Centres are based at sites provided by public or private institutions. The theosophical seat in Milan was moved from the old building of Viale dei Mille to new, more central and comfortable premises. Meetings are also carried out in private houses or places specially rented for the occasion. The Theosophical Society in Italy is present in many small Groups and Centres due to the geographical spread of the population across several small towns. The website <www.teosofica.org> had more than four thousand views during the year and has been an important way to reach those in touch for the first time. The Section monthly magazine *Revista Italiana di Teosofia* has 1150 printed copies and over 1000 subscriptions. A monthly newsletter is sent by e-mail to more than 4500 subscribers interested in theosophical activities in Italy. In Facebook also the Section is active. Regular interaction with the academic world and universities are also part of the activities. *A Study in Consciousness* by Annie Besant was translated and published. In March a seminar was organized by the Italian Section, the European Federation and the Swiss Theosophical Society

in Ascona, Switzerland with the theme: “Kali Yuga, the Age of Spiritual Growth”. The 103rd National Congress took place in Torino, from 1 to 4 June with the subject “Helena Petrovna Blavatsky — Advocate of Theosophy and Pioneer of the Theosophical Society”. On 12 November 2016 Vicenza hosted the first edition of a new cycle of study seminars for theosophical workers. The second edition of this seminar was held in Turin at the Theosophical Headquarters on 13 May. A calendar was printed with images from Adyar with the aim to raise funds for the Adyar Renovation Project. An exhibition of paintings by Prof. Bernardino del Boca (1919–2001) was held in Novara from 11 February to 12 March 2017 in the monumental complex of Broletto. The event was promoted by the Bernardino del Boca Foundation. A workgroup was set up on the subject “Communication Paths, and the Study of Theosophy and TS Activities in the Light of New Technologies”. On the theme “Dialogues on H. P. Blavatsky” thirteen short videos were made with interviews with the scholar Pier Giorgio Parola, conducted by the General Secretary Antonio Girardi. Activities in cooperation with the Italian TOS have been further developed during the year, with the support to charity in Italy, Syria, India, Pakistan, Burma and the Philippines.

Mr Antonio Girardi
General Secretary

MEXICO

Founded 1919, membership 148. The National Convention was held in November, and in December the School of Wisdom was conducted by Dr Isaac Jaully Davila and Dr Enrique Reig Pintado. Public lectures were held with speakers who are members of different Lodges. The official dates of the Society were commemorated. The Section supported the Inter-American Theosophical Federation for the conduct of the lectures by profes-

sor P. Krishna. In September the new Guadalajara study center was certified. In October Mr Mahendra P. Singhal conducted the School of Wisdom and delivered two lectures at the Autonomous University of San Luis Potosi. Due to an earthquake a wall of the Headquarters building was damaged and repairs were carried out.

Mr Enrique Sanchez Arrieta
General Secretary

THE NETHERLANDS

Founded 1896, membership 323. The Dutch Section (TVN) has a close and brotherly cooperation with the International Theosophical Centre (ITC) in Naarden, where several national activities took place. The "Open Day" at the ITC in Naarden took place on 2 September and on 3 September there was a lecture by the International President Tim Boyd in the morning for members and in the afternoon for the public in general. The Information Centre, which is composed of the Library, Bookshop and TVN Office is

located in the Headquarters in Amsterdam and is open from Wednesday till Saturday from 1 pm to 5 pm. Activities in Dutch and English were held in the Headquarters. The magazine *Theosofia* has been published quarterly. Different activities were conducted in the lodges and centres: Lectures, Meditations and Studies. The website <www.theosofie.nl> has been relocated to a new provider.

Mr Wim Leys
General Secretary

NEW ZEALAND

Founded 1896, membership 619. The Section hosted the Indo-Pacific Federation Conference in Auckland during 14–19 October 2016 with 110 delegates attending from the Indo-Pacific region and several from Europe and Brazil. The Science Seminar took place from 19–21 October 2016 with professional, scientific-background speakers from Australia, France, India and New Zealand. The National Annual Convention was held in Dunedin in January 2017 with guest

speakers Trân-Thi-Kim-Diêu from France and Elena Dovalsantos from the USA with the theme, "Theosophy — Science, Spirituality & Consciousness". A four year strategy for the Section was approved during the AGM meeting. School of Theosophy was held in May with Ms Dorothy Bell, international speaker, exploring the theme: "A Theosophical Worldview — The Power Revealed".

Mr John Vorstermans
General Secretary

THE PHILIPPINES

Founded 1933, membership 235. The National Convention of the Section was held at the National Headquarters with the Vice President from the Republic of the Philippines Mr Leni Robredo as the guest speaker. During the convention, a new group of trustees for the national board were elected, and the officers were chosen from among the group. The School of the Wisdom was held from 6 to 15 January on the theme: "Self-Transformation and the Spiritual Life" and conducted by Mr Vic Hao Chin Jr. The following theosophical journals were published: *The Theosophical Digest*, *The Philippine Theosophist*, *The TOS Newsletter*, and *Peace Ideas*. Various pamphlets on Theosophy, vegetarianism, yoga, masonry, Christianity and meditation were also published. Ven. Bhante Sujatha from USA conducted several lectures on the following subjects: "The Art of Happiness", "Healing through Loving-Kindness Meditation", and a retreat on "Mindfulness and Loving-Kindness Meditation" at the Golden Link College. International inspirational lecturer and Buddhist teacher Bro. Billy Tan of Malaysia conducted a lecture and session on Laughter Yoga on 5 March at the National Headquarters. A Youth Camp for self-discovery and social enterprise development from 23 to 27 May was conducted by Jose Victor Penaranda, Eiren Galang and John

Derson Herbolario. A group of young members launched the Spiritual Film Club that meets once a month to watch and discuss films that are relevant. Monthly yoga sessions have been launched at the Headquarters, conducted by Dr Andrew Navarro, a yoga teacher trained in India. A series of Self-Transformation Seminars were conducted in various parts of the Philippines. A Catholic nun, Sister Sonia Punzalan conducted a 3-hour Zen Meditation session at the Headquarters, she also shared with the audience the basic quality of consciousness being nurtured in Zen — seeing things as they are. The Golden Link College joined the International Day of Peace Program, a national event to promote peace hosted by De la Salle College of Lipa, Batangas. As ISIS terrorists occupied the Muslim city of Marawi in Southern Philippines, the members of Godea Lodge volunteered to do TOS work as counselors for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder briefings and counseling for soldiers, residents, evacuees and teachers affected by the conflict. TOS sent money to aid the effort and extend feeding assistance to evacuation centers. Flor Garcia, Trustee and Saturnina Rodil, former trustee, participated in the ASEAN Forum on Violent Extremism, formulating action plans for the prevention of violent extremism.

Dr Roselmo Doval-Santos
General Secretary

PORTUGAL

Founded 1921, membership 113. Every fortnight the Section held public sessions with different formats. Four members of the Section, including the GS, attended the 38th European Congress held in Barcelona in August. The International President, Mr Tim Boyd, visited the cities of Lisbon and Porto. In Lisbon the President had a private meeting with members and then gave a public lecture. In Porto he gave a public lecture.

The website is a good reference to those who show interest in knowing about the history and activities of the Section. The magazine *Osiris* has been published regularly in paper and online. The Lodges in Lisbon, Porto and Evora, as well as the Study Group in Azores and in Setubal keep on working with enthusiasm and dynamism.

Mrs Ana Maria Coelho de Sousa
General Secretary

SPAIN

Founded 1921, membership 322. A silent retreat was held in the Benedictine Monastery of Montserrat, near Barcelona; the theme was "To Know, to Want, to Dare and to Be Silent", there were 50 participants and it was held by the President of the European Federation Ms Trân-Thi-Kim-Diêu. The "Iberian Days" programme was held from 13 to 16 April in Lisbon and had 50 participants both from the Spanish and Portuguese Sections. The theme was "The Practical Dimension of Theosophy". From 21 to 26 August, the 38th European Congress took place in Barcelona, and more than 200 delegates from different countries around the world gathered to discuss and reflect on "Theosophy: a Way towards Universal Consciousness". The whole program was webcasted online and

is available at the Spanish Section's and the European Federation's websites. In March two speakers from Brazil, Mr Ricardo Lindemann — and Mrs Isis Resende visited and talked in several Lodges in Barcelona, Madrid, Malaga and Zaragoza. The representative of the Spanish Section was present during the second session of the General Council that took place in Naarden. Lodges undertook many studies based on different books, among them *The Secret Doctrine*, *The Mahatma Letters*, *The Bhagavadgītā* and others. A new program with lectures in some Universities for the public in general gave good results. During the year several silent meditation retreats were organized periodically.

Mrs Angels Torra-Buron
General Secretary

SWEDEN

Founded 1895, membership 151. The Section held a Summer School conducted by Mr Vicente Hao Chin, Jr at Kreivila, Finland, with the theme: "Transform

Yourself, Transform Your Life — Modern Insight". Six members attended the European Congress in Barcelona. The activities of the six Lodges included many

lectures on various themes. Study groups and workshops were also held during the year. Ms Diana Dunningham Chapotin conducted a mini-school on "Serving Brotherhood" and Ms Ing-Britt Wiklund, Pertti Spets, Birgitta Skarbo and Hans Olsson conducted another on *The Secret*

Doctrine. The bookshop in Stockholm has been open two days a week with some volunteer members. TOS have helped children at an orphanage in Goa, India.

Mrs Ing-Britt Wiklund
General Secretary

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Founded 1895, membership 3320. The year was one of transition at the Theosophical Society in America (TSA). Tim Boyd, international president, ended his term of service as president of the TSA, and Dr Barbara Hebert assumed this role. Two new study centres were certified and 42 lectures or workshops were scheduled during the year.

The Prison Programme, directed by national secretary, David Bruce, continues to reach hundreds of prisoners around the country and the number of prison mentors has gone up. The Olcott Library continued its digitization efforts by making accessible online, through Theosophy Wiki, the Blavatsky Lectures (starting from 1918) and Boris de Zirkoff's annotated copy of Blavatsky's *Theosophical Glossary*, and plans to digitize all the TSA journals. The Archives department has received artifacts documenting subjects as diverse as the 1975 centennial celebrations, "Krotona in 1953", Ozark Camp, and so on, and intends to scan hun-

dreds of old, glass, magic-lantern slides.

The Theosophy Wiki online encyclopedia is made available in English, Spanish, Russian, French, and Italian. Recorded lectures covering an eclectic range of topics are made available on their YouTube channel. During the year the Section offered four weekend retreats, sponsored many free community events, offered numerous half-day and all-day workshops, and conducted several online interactive webinar programs. The Theosophical Publishing House (TPH) sales declined moderately because no new titles were published; but there is a reprint demand for some older titles, which are being published with redesigned covers. The Quest Bookshop averages one thousand sales per month. Quest Books intends to produce audio versions of some of the more popular paper-back titles. Over 3000 customers received a monthly e-newsletter announcing special sales and promoting featured items.

Dr Barbara Hebert
General Secretary

REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

AMERICA, CENTRAL

Founded 1929, membership 13. The Association has a Lodge in Nicaragua and in El Salvador. They have studied classical Theosophical books, viewed videos, and organized six public lectures. Lodge mem-

bers attended "The Caribbean and Central America Wisdom School" in Costa Rica, organized by the Inter-American Federation.

Mrs Ligia Josefina Gutierrez Simpson
Organizing Secretary

AUSTRIA

Founded 1891, membership 58. There are three Lodges and they offer weekly lectures throughout the year. Study subjects are based on classical theosophical teachings and related subjects. Offered lectures are regularly placed on the TS

Austria website. Our members receive *Adyar*, the periodical magazine from the German TS, which is published three times a year.

Mr Albert Schichl
Organizing Secretary

CANADA

Founded 1924, membership 124. There are 5 Lodges and 3 Study Centres and most of them met regularly at least once a month, with some meeting even once a week. A few of the members were not so active on account of advanced age and the attendant health issues. Most of the regular meetings consisted of study and meditation on various theosophical books, articles and writings by authors such as John Algeo, Geoffrey Barborka, Annie Besant, H. P. Blavatsky,

Adelaide Gardner and I. K. Taimni. The Canadian Theosophical Association's annual convention took place in August 2017. Summer schools and workshops were also conducted. Almost all the groups celebrated White Lotus Day with members and guests. The Section brings out a quarterly, bilingual e-magazine, *The Light Bearer/Le Porteur de Lumière*.

Mrs Maryse DeCoste
Organizing Secretary

CHILE

Founded 1920, membership 47. The annual convention was conducted in March 2017 with the motto: "Live Spiritually". In addition to the printed journal, *The Chilean Theosophical Magazine*, the Section brings out the e-publication, *Theosophical Brochure*, and e-pamphlets. It also uses an online radio channel for transmission

of lectures. Information is made available through their website, Facebook, Twitter, and the blog <sociedadteosoficachile.blogspot.com>. All these are available to other Spanish-speaking people and countries too. The three Branches have been working normally. In addition to public lectures, workshops and Theosophy

courses were also regularly conducted. The monthly national meditation program had good member participation. A translation team has been working on various books by G. S. Arundale, Radha Burnier, Geoffrey Hodson, and Joy Mills, and also collaborates on the Spanish

version of *The Theosophist*. Some of the members participated in Summer and Winter Schools in Argentina. There were foreign visitors like Arnoldo Salzman and Elsa Arregui both from Argentina.

Mr Cesar A. Ortega Ortiz
Organizing Secretary

IRELAND

Founded 1919, membership 77. The twelfth All Ireland Convention was held in May 2017 at Dublin on the theme "The Journey of the Wild Swans" with Gerard Brennan, an Australian member, as the guest speaker. Both Belfast and Phoenix Lodges have regular member meetings consisting of a short meditation session followed by a talk/study/group discussion on books by Annie Besant and H. P. Blavatsky. Talks were given by members on topics such as "Spiritual Significance of the Sand Mandalas of Tibet" by Marjorie Bloch, "Theosophy from a Poetic Aspect" by David Boden, "Knowledge from East to West: Dharma"

by Peter Gallagher, "The Brotherhood of Angels and Men" and "Our Inner Light and Power" by Marie Harkness, "Consciousness, Theosophy and the Western Mystery Tradition" by Paul Johnston, and "The Brotherhood of Man" by Catherine Lenehan. Claude Goetz and Kathleen D'Arcy, two highly regarded members of the Society, passed away during the year. The website <theosophyireland.com> has been instrumental in generating enquiries from the general public, many of whom are likely to become members of the TS.

Ms Marie Harkness
Organizing Secretary

IVORY COAST

Founded 1997. No report.

Mr Pierre-Magloire Kouahoh
Organizing Secretary

NORWAY

Founded 1913, membership 19. There was a change in the organization in April 2017 with Andreas Mikael Isberg taking over from Saleh Noshie as Organizing Secretary (OS). There have been 5 new members. In addition to the one active Lodge that existed earlier, a second Lodge was formed in August 2017. Both lodges meet every month for lectures and discussions, preceded by a meditation session making

use of Geoffrey Hodson's *A Yoga of Light*. Information on the activities are regularly updated on the website <teosofisksamfunn.no> and in their Facebook group. The new OS plans to increase membership, establish a management board, set up a library cum study centre, and make the summer school a regular feature every year.

Mr Andreas Mikael Isberg
Organizing Secretary

SCOTLAND

Founded 1910, membership 129 in (2016). No report.

Mr Stuart Mackenzie Trotter
Organizing Secretary

SLOVENIA

Founded 1992, membership 55. The motto of the year was "Brotherhood". There are 4 Lodges with regular meetings every week. Members are studying various books by Annie Besant, Radha Burnier, Mabel Collins, J. Krishnamurti, C. W. Leadbeater, N. Sri Ram and I. K. Taimni. There was a change of leadership with Mrs Irena Primc being elected as the new OS in February 2017. Two schools were conducted during the year. The autumn school was from 4 to 6 November

2016 at Maribor on *The Voice of the Silence* by Breda Zagar with 19 members attending. The summer school was on "The Work of the Theosophical Society" in Kranjska Gora from 9 to 11 June 2017 attended by 16 selected members. The memorial days, "Annie Besant Day", Radha Burnier Day", Foundation Day, Adyar Day and White Lotus Day were celebrated.

Mrs Irena Primc
Organizing Secretary

TOGO

Founded 1997, membership 25 in (2018). No report.

Mr Kouma Dakey
Organizing Secretary

UKRAINE

Founded 2013, membership 100 (an increase of 6 members in the current year). The OS was re-elected for a further period of 3 years. There are 6 Branches and 3 Study Centres with regular meetings and study in progress. The 12th annual convention of the TS in Ukraine took place in Kiev on the theme, "Compassion and Universal Responsibility" with 40 participants, including from Russia. A summer school was conducted from 1 to 9 July 2017 near Odessa on the Black Sea coast with over 30 participants on the topic, "Creativity as Spiritual Path". The highlight of the programme was a visit to the erstwhile home of H. P. Blavatsky's grandparents in Pavlinka village, where she spent a sum-

mer as a young girl. This is now a cultural centre housing a museum, library and a large garden. A public meeting, "Save Memory in the Heart", was held in August on the occasion of the visit of Mahendra Singhal from India. A seminar was also organized on "There Is No Religion Higher than Truth" at the Indian Embassy. A travelling exhibition "In exhaustive Source" on Blavatsky's life and heritage was held in 3 places. The TOS had 12 activities during the year. The Science Group held an annual scientific-practical conference. The e-magazine, *Svitoch*, came out with 6 issues during the year.

Ms Svitlana Gavrylenko
Organizing Secretary

URUGUAY

Founded 1925, membership 58. Meetings are held every week with the study of books by H. P. Blavatsky, J. Krishnamurti, I. K. Taimni, Eckhart Tolle and Jesús Zátón. Interesting articles from the Internet on modern physics, science and archeology, researches seeking the convergence between modern science and ancient wisdom are published in *Sophia*, the theosophical magazine of the Spanish Section. Videos of seminars in Spain by Dr Jauli Dávila, lectures by Juan Viñas, and the film *The Lady in the Water* were screened followed by discussions. The library actively lends books to members and is open two days a week to the public for reading. Digitalized magazines from various South American and Spanish

sources are received. A few theosophical books are also available on the web page of the TS in Uruguay. Lectures were delivered by Ema Ma. de Souza Leal, Ma. de los Ángeles López, Mariela Luzi, Ubaldo Pino and Ana Ma. Rocha. The TOS continues its support to “canine and equine SOS shelters”. It collects bottle tops for a recycling organization that gives in return food for animal dispensaries. It also collects bus tickets of a city transport company which in return buys wheel chairs for disabled citizens. Free English language classes are conducted using theosophical material as the basis of study for members and sympathizers.

Mrs Ema Ma. de Souza Leal
Organizing Secretary

WALES

Founded 1922, membership 68, with a drop of 9 from the earlier year. Every Lodge has been having monthly study meetings for the members, where they typically discuss the basic Wisdom Teachings as presented in Tim Wyatt's book, *Cycles of Eternity*, a copy of which is provided free of charge to each member. There are also fortnightly study meetings on basic Theosophy for members. Public meetings

and seminars have been held which included talks by leading members of the English Section, Susan Bayliss, Ted Capstick, Wayne Gatfield, Janet Holt, Teresa Keast and Tim Wyatt. Other talkers were Michael van Buren and Geshe Lama Ahbay Tulku Rinpoche. A few members like Kate Fletcher and Gillian Monks also gave talks.

Mrs Julie Cunningham
Organizing Secretary

PRESIDENTIAL AGENCIES

ASIA, EAST AND SOUTH-EAST

Formed 1990, membership 543, with a decrease of 8 from the previous year, which is the net of 61 new members and 69 members who left. Japan, Malaysia, Myanmar and Singapore make up this Agency at present, with an active Lodge in each country. The Internet resources used for popularizing Theosophy in the region are

<theosophyasia.net> open to all countries in the region, <singaporelodge.org>, <chinesetheosophy.org> in the Chinese language, <theosophiaselangorlodge.weebly.com>, and so on.

Mr Chong Sanne
Presidential Representative

NIPPON LODGE (TOKYO, JAPAN)

Founded 1971, membership 45. Under the leadership of Naoto Okamoto, who was elected Lodge President last year, the Lodge took up the task of reprinting out-of-print theosophical titles as well as new works. Several theosophical works have been published including most recently, *The Voice of the Silence*, *At the Feet of the Master*, and *Light on the Path*. Meetings

take place semi-monthly for the study of theosophical classics, and efforts are being made to enhance the online presence. The Lodge magazine, *Theosophia*, is published every other month. Academic conferences on theosophical themes are held about twice a year.

Mr Naoto Okamoto
Lodge President

SELANGOR LODGE (MALAYSIA)

Founded 1927, membership 94. Every Saturday, Lodge meetings are conducted with readings from selected texts on topics from philosophy, science, religion and spirituality followed by spiritual discourses on Advaita Vedanta, Western Hermetic traditions, Christian Mysticism and Theravada Buddhism Forest Meditation. Gerard Brennan, the new President of the Indo-Pacific Theosophical Federation visited in March 2017 and talked on "Ways to Make

Theosophy More Relevant to People". In April the Lodge hosted Ragi Kadirgamar, spiritual guide from Sri Lanka but resident in Tiruvannamalai, South India, who conducted several talks and meditation classes. The Lodge organized a "Laughing Wellness Meditation" by Chandana Danzyll in April and July 2017. Ng Ay Na, attended the 13th Triennial Conference of the Indo-Pacific Federation in Auckland, New Zealand in

October 2016. In August, Michele Boeglin conducted a retreat in Pahang on "The Final Teachings: You Are That; No Liberation, No Bondage, No Purification;

Living from Wholeness and Loving What Is" attended by 16 participants.

Ms Ng Ay Na
Lodge President

OLCOTT LODGE (YANGON TS, MYANMAR)

Founded 1885, membership 46. Lodge meetings and group studies are conducted every weekend. Studies included HPB's *The Secret Doctrine* and *The Great Treatise on the Stage of the Path to Enlightenment* by Tsong-Ka-Pa. Conscious force meditation is held every weekend and life force meditation every

other fortnight (on full moon days). Four meditation trips were planned to ancient sacred places around Myanmar. Adyar Day, Annie Besant's birthday, Foundation Day, Wesak Day and White Lotus Day were celebrated.

Ms Pyi Thane
Lodge President

SINGAPORE LODGE

Founded 1889, membership 358. Lodge meetings are held every Saturday with a talk or a video show. 43 new members joined the Society during the year as a result of *A Course in Theosophy* held in two editions. The 13th Triennial Conference of the Indo-Pacific Theosophical Federation was attended by members at Auckland, New Zealand in October.

Planning for the 11th World Congress (along with 4th TOS International Congress) to be held in Singapore in August 2018 was kick-started. Chairman of the European Federation, Trân-Thi-Kim-Diêu visited and gave a talk on "Discovering One's Own Dharma" in January 2017.

Mr Chong Sanne
Lodge President

BANGLADESH

Founded 2013, membership about 300. There are 8 Lodges, 2 of which were chartered in the current year, and 116 new members have been enrolled. Books such as *At the Feet of the Master* by J. Krishnamurti, *Principles of Theosophical Work* by I. K. Taimni, *Who Am I* by B. L. Bhattacharyya, *First Principles of Theosophy* by C. Jinarajadasa, and so on,

were translated into the Bengali language for the use of the Lodges. Study classes were conducted by Dr Abdul Hye and Dr Almasur Rahman. Three new Lodges are in the process of being formed. Adyar Day, Annie Besant's birthday, and White Lotus Day were observed.

Mr B. L. Bhattacharyya
Presidential Representative

COLOMBIA

Founded 1937, membership 28. There are 4 Lodges and 5 study centres in Colombia. Various books were studied in the Lodges such as *The Secret Doctrine* by HPB, *The Ancient Wisdom* by Annie Besant, *The Key to Theosophy* by HPB, *The Christ Life* by Geoffrey Hodson, *On Mind and Thought* by J. Krishnamurti, *What is Theosophy* by Annie Besant, and

so on. Other topics discussed were "History of the Theosophical Society in Colombia", public conversations on "Karma and Dharma" by Nelly Medina de Galvis and Amparo Ojeda, "The Golden Stairs" by Catalina Isaza Cantor, and so forth.

Mr Antonio Martinez
Presidential Representative

COSTA RICA

Founded 1997, membership 52. There are 5 Lodges and the membership during the year dropped by 7 members. Some of the books studied were *The Secret Doctrine*, *Life After Death* by J. R. Sordo, *The Guide of Bardo* by Chokyi Nyima Rimpoche, *Attention and Diamond Sutta*

by Ramiro Calle and others, *Light on The Path* by Mabel Collins, and *Sat-Darshanam — Forty Verses on Reality* by Ramana Maharshi.

Ms Maria de los Angeles Orlich Soto
Presidential Representative

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Founded 1987, membership 37. During the year the Board held six meetings. Upon request of our Presidential Representative, the affiliation badges have been requested for members in Dominican Republic. On 3 November a conference on "Self-Sacrifice, the Basis of Christian Mysticism" was held at Ateneo Dominicano in Santo Domingo with guest lecturer Fenando Torrijos. Dr Isaac Jauli and Enrique Reig gave lectures

at Santo Domingo on 22 and 23 March. A seminar "Dreams and Death: Two Twins of Divinity" was conducted by Drs Enrique Reig and Isaac Jauli from 25 to 26 March. White Lotus Day was celebrated and the Lodges and Study Groups met regularly during the year promoting study and reflections on Theosophy.

Mrs Magaly Polanco
Presidential Representative

HUNGARY

Founded 1907, membership 32. The Section held its General Meeting on 1 October 2016, when the new Presidential Representative, Mr. Janos Szabari, and the Executive Committee members were

elected. From the three Lodges only one is active, another is reorganizing its activities and the third is not sending reports. During the year monthly public meetings were held in which the emphasis

was on seeing daily problems from a theosophical point of view. A week after each public lecture, an “open meeting” were organized to meet new people who are interested and answer their questions about

the lecture. The lectures have been recorded and uploaded to YouTube. TOS in the country was also active during the year.

Mr Janos Szabari

Presidential Representative

PAKISTAN

Founded 1948, membership NA. No report sent.

Mr Bhagwan Bharvani

PERU

Founded 1924, membership 33. The Section has two Lodges and held sixteen public talks during the year. They also offered free Internet course on Theosophy for the public and had their usual studies and meetings for members. The highlight of the year was that they could finally raise

enough funds to buy land in December, to build their own hall for public lectures, to hold around 50 or more people, and to possibly house their two Lodges.

Mr Julio Gerardo Pomar Calderón

Vt. Presidential Representative

PUERTO RICO

Founded 1925, membership 40. The Regional Association presented public conferences on a wide range of theosophical subjects almost every Sunday to reach out to interested walk-in persons. Some topics were “The Seven Bodies of Man”, “Interior Harmony”, and

“The Path of Occultism”, delivered by members. They received the visit of Drs Isaac Jauli and Enrique Reig, who offered public conferences attended by 40 to 50 persons.

Mrs Magaly Polanco

Presidential Agent

RUSSIA

Founded 2013, membership 133. This year a Theosophical Publishing House was created, Russian-Ukrainian relations were strengthened, and construction of the Siberian Theosophical Center in the Altai continued. Their website <ts-russia.org> is administered by the former and current Presidential Representatives, Pavel Malakhov and Alexey Besputin. There are now 8 very active Lodges and one study

center. The branches organised round table discussions and several study meetings. The Amahata branch conducted the 6th Russia-wide Theosophical Conference in Moscow with about 70 participants and webcasting on the theme “Beyond Illusion a call to Unity”.

Mr Alexey Besputin

Presidential Representative

PRESIDENTIAL AGENCIES

SRI LANKA

Founded 1926, membership 182. No report.

Mr M.B. Dassanayake

Presidential Representative

SWITZERLAND

Founded 1910, membership 27. On 17 June the TS in Switzerland had a new Presidential Representative, Mr Andrea Biasca-Caroni, replacing Mrs Eliane Gaillard, who did valuable work for 12 years. The Agency has 2 Lodges and 2 Study Centers. Their activities are as

follows: one Lodge had meetings in Ascona and, the other, courses on Theosophy in Geneva; the Lugano study group met fortnightly, and the new study group met in Zurich.

Mr Andrea Biasca-Caroni

Presidential Representative

VENEZUELA

Founded 1953, membership 15. No report.

Mrs Nelly Nouel

Presidential Agent

LODGES ATTACHED TO ADYAR

LOTUS LODGE (CROATIA)

Membership 20. Lodge meetings took place weekly in Zagreb and Opatija. The study consisted of themes that were taken from books or articles from magazines: *Karma, Dharma and Reincarnation* by Annie Besant, "Transcending Science —

A New Dawn" by Jacques Mahnich. *At the Feet of the Master* by Alcyone (J. Krishnamurti), *Light on the Path* by M. Collins, and *The Voice of the Silence* by HPB.

Ms Nada Tepés
Lodge President

EL SOL LODGE (ECUADOR)

Membership 12. No report.

ARC-EN-CIEL LODGE (FRANCE)

Membership 18. The Lodge held regular meetings once a month. The members studied Annie Besant's book *Thought Power* and discussions were

held on spiritual thoughts in the world today.

Mr Jean Iozza
Lodge President

ANANDA LODGE (FRANCE)

Membership 15. In January 2017, Ananda Lodge re-elected its officers: President: Brigitte Iozia, Secretary: Jean Adjunto, Treasurer: Cecile Giuliani. Regular monthly meetings were held

during the year at its headquarters. The members continued to work with *A Study in Consciousness* by Annie Besant.

Mrs Brigitte Iozza
Lodge President

COVENANT LODGE (ISRAEL)

Membership 67. The Lodge held weekly study sessions for members and once a month the meeting was open to the public in general. A monthly study on *The Secret Doctrine* was also organized. Twice a month an open meeting for the public in general was held. In January a weekend seminar was held at the Dead

Sea on the theme "Who Am I? Encountering the Light and Shadow within Us". In March a weekend seminar at a kibbutz near Jerusalem on "Choices in Life — Self Knowledge as a Basis for Beneficial Choices". In June, a retreat was held in the Jerusalem area by Ms Kim-Dieu on "Unifying Meditation and Action:

LODGES ATTACHED TO ADYAR

A New Way of Living". Five study groups continue to operate during the year with one or two meetings during the month. Facebook has been used as a tool to disseminate theosophical material.

YouTube channel has more than 40 films, some of them full-length lectures on various topics related to TS activities.

Mr Abraham Oron
Lodge President

FRATERNIDAD LODGE (PARAGUAY)

Membership 16. The Rama Fraternidad departed from the Argentinian Section on 17th August 2016 becoming a Lodge directly attached to Adyar. The Lodge had Branch meeting every Sunday, in which members read texts chosen at the beginning of the year, as well as short texts

from various authors, such as HPB, I. K. Taimni, Annie Besant, C. W. Leadbeater, Pablo Sender, Carl G. Jung, J. Krishnamurti, Radha Bournier and Tim Boyd, among others.

Mr Antonio Castillo
Lodge President

H. P. BLAVATSKY LODGE (QATAR)

Membership 9. The Lodge met twice a month with study classes on "Ocean of Theosophy" and group discussion on "Occultism and Theosophy".

Mr Dom Escobido
Lodge President

ORLANDO LODGE (USA)

Membership 15. The Lodge held meetings twice a month. The first meeting of each month is called "Meditation on the One Life" based on N. Sri Ram's text. This opening meditation is followed by reading group commentary and discussion on a selected topic. On the second Sunday of October each year, a special "Nature Sanctuary Day" is held in the campus of the Lodge. The School of Theosophy, Orlando, holds regular classes in basic

Theosophy and meditation. A website <tso-orlando.org> can be visited online. A quarterly e-newsletter, *Theosophy Today* is published by the Lodge. Theosophy Healing Circle meets on the 4th Friday of each month, it conducts healing meditation for those who have requested healing prayers.

Mr Carl Metzger
Lodge President

INTERNATIONAL DIRECTORY AND MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL

INTERNATIONAL DIRECTORY

as of September 2017

Date	Section	General Secretary, etc.	Address	Magazine	Email address
1947	Africa, East and Central	... Mr Narendra M. Shah	... PO Box 14525. 00800, Westlands, Nairobi, Kenya	... <i>The Theosophical Light</i>	narendrashahi999@gmail.com
1909	Africa, South	... Mr Jack Hartmann	... 9 Ronean, 38 Princess Ave., Windsor E. 2194	... <i>The South African Theosophist</i>	hartmann.jack.c@gmail.com
1956	Africa, West	... Mr John Osmond Boakye	... PO Box 720, Accra, Ghana	... <i>The West African Theosophist</i>	tswafrica@gmail.com
1929	America, Central *	... Mrs Ligia Gutierrez Simpson	... Reparto Los Arcos no. 43, Entrada Principal 1 Cuadra al Sur, 2 Cuadras Abajo, 1 Cuadra al Sur, Distrito 2, Managua, Nicaragua		ligusimpson@hotmail.com
1920	Argentina	... Mr Esteban Langlois	... Pje. Florencio Balcarce 71, Buenos Aires (1405)	... <i>Teosofia en Argentina</i>	secretaria@sociedadteosofica.org.ar
1990	Asia, East and Southeast †	... Mr Chong Sanne	... 540 Sims Avenue, No. 03-04 Sims Avenue Centre, Singapore 387 603	... <i>Newsletter</i>	sanne@theosophyasia.net
1895	Australia	... Mrs Linda Oliveira	... Level 2, 162 Goulburn St., Surry Hills, NSW 2010	... <i>Theosophy in Australia</i>	tshq@austeos.org.au
1912	Austria *	... Mr Albert Schichl	... Oberbaumgarten 25, 4204 Haibach im Mühlkreis	... <i>Theosophie Adyar</i>	theosophie.austria@aon.at
2013	Bangladesh †	... Mr B. L. Bhattacharya	... B/4-3, Iswarchandra Nibas, 68/1, Bagmari Road, Kolkata 700 054		blbtos_2005@yahoo.com
1911	Belgium	... Mrs Sabine Van Osta	... Place des Gueux 8, B1000 Brussels	... <i>Le Lotus Bleu</i>	info@ts-belgium.be
1965	Bolivia	... Mrs Guillermina Rios de Sandoval	... Pasaje Jauregui No. 2255, La Paz		guilleriossandoval@yahoo.com
1920	Brazil	... Mr Marcos L. B. de Resende	... SGAS Quadra 603, N. 20, CEP 70200-630 Brasilia (DF)	... <i>Sophia</i>	marcos.resende@riedel.com.br
1924	Canada *	... Mrs Maryse DeCoste	... # 12-1475 Deep Cove Rd. North Vancouver, BC	... <i>The Light Bearer</i>	modcoste@hotmail.com
1920	Chile *	... Mr Cesar Ortega Ortiz	... Casilla 11 Sucursal Paseo Estacion, Estacion Central, Santiago	... <i>Revista Teosofica Chilena</i>	sociedadteosoficachile2010@gmail.com
1937	Colombia †	... Mr Antonio Martinez	... Carrera 6, # 56-40, Bogotá (Chapinero Alto)	... <i>Selección Teosofica</i>	antoniomartinezsgura1@gmail.com
1997	Costa Rica †	... Ms Maria Orlich	... Apartado 8-6710-1000, San José		orlichsm@gmail.com
2007	Croatia ▲	... Mrs Nada Tepeš	... Krajiška ulica 24, 10000 Zagreb	... <i>Teozofija</i>	z.zemlja@gmail.com
1905	Cuba	... Ms Barbara A. Fariñas Piña	... Apartado de Correos 6365, La Habana 10600		teocuba.sociedad@gmail.com
1987	Dominican Rep. †	... Mrs Magaly Polanco	... Calle Santa Agueda 1652 Les Chalet Col San Juan Puerto Rico Apartado 23 00926		polancomagaly@yahoo.com
1888	England	... Mrs Jenny Baker	... 50 Gloucester Place, London W1U 8EA		president@theosoc.org.uk
1907	Finland	... Mrs Mirva Jaatinen	... Teosofinen Seura, Vironkatu 7 C 2, Fin 00170, Helsinki	... <i>Teosofi</i>	info@teosofinenseura.fi ylishteeri@teosofinenseura.fi
1899	France	... Mrs Jeannine (Nano) Leguay	... 4 Square Rapp, 75007 Paris	... <i>Le Lotus Bleu</i>	editionsadyar@wanadoo.fr
1902	Germany	... Mrs Manuela Kaulich	... Hauptstr. 39, 93138 Lappersdorf	... <i>Adyar</i>	theosophie-adyar@gmx.de
1928	Greece	... Mrs Eirini Kefaloudi	... 25 Voukourestiou St., 106 71-Athens	... <i>Ilisos</i>	info@theosophicalsociety.gr
1907	Hungary †	... Mr Szabari Janos	... H-1085 Budapest, Horánszky u. 27. fsz. 10	... <i>Teozofia</i>	info@teozofia.hu
1921	Iceland	... Mr Kristinn Ágúst Fridfinnsson	... PO Box 1257 Ingolfstraeti 22, 121 Reykjavik	... <i>Gangleri</i>	iceland.ts@gmail.com
1891	India	... Mr Pradeep H. Gohil	... The Theosophical Society, Varanasi 221 010	... <i>The Indian Theosophist</i>	theosophyvn@gmail.com
1912	Indonesia	... Mr Widayatmoko	... Dsn. Parelegi no. 21, RT 02/ RW 09, Desa Purwodadi, Kecamatan Purwodadi, 67163 Pasuruan, Jawa Timur	... <i>Theosofi</i>	indotheosofi@gmail.com
1919	Ireland *	... Mrs Marie Harkness	... 97 Mountsandel Road, Coleraine, UK BT52 1TA		marieharkness@yahoo.co.uk

1954	Israel ▲	... Mr Avraham Oron	... PO Box 9114, Ramat-Gan, Israel 5219002	... <i>Or</i>	ornet@teosofia.org.il
1902	Italy	... Mr Antonio Girardi	... Viale Quintino Sella, 83/E, 36100 Vicenza	... <i>Rivista Italiana di Teosofia</i>	sti@teosofica.org
1997	Ivory Coast *	... Mr Pierre-Magloire Kouahoh	... Yopougon, 23 Rue Princesse B. P. 3924, Abidjan 23	... <i>Sophia</i>	pm_kouahoh@hotmail.com
1919	Mexico	... Mr Enrique Sanchez	... Ignacio Mariscal 126, Col. Tabacalera Mexicana, Mexico, D.F. 06030		sede@sociedadteosofica.mx info@sociedadteosofica.mx
1897	Netherlands, The	... Mr Wim Leys	... Tolsraat 154, 1074 VM Amsterdam	... <i>Theosofia</i>	info@teosofie.nl
1896	New Zealand	... Mr John Vorstermans	... 18, Belvedere Street, Epsom, Auckland 1022	... <i>TheoSophia</i>	np@theosophy.org.nz
1913	Norway *	... Mr Andreas Mikael Isberg	... Ulriksborgveien 10, 1533 Moss		andreas.isberg@teosofisksamfunn.no
1935	Orlando ▲	... Mr Carl Metzger	... 1606 New York Ave. Orlando, Florida, 32803-1838, USA		TheosophicalSocietyCF@gmail.com
1948	Pakistan † Jamsheed Memorial Hall, M. A. Jinnah Road, opp. Radio Pakistan, Karachi	... <i>The Karachi Theosophist</i>	bhagwanbharvani@hotmail.com
1925	Paraguay ▲	... Mr Antonio Castillo	... Carandayty, 572, 1621, Asunción		ramafaternidadSTparaguay@hotmail.com
1924	Peru †	... Mr Julio Pomar Calderón	... Av Republica de Portugal 152, Breña, Lima 5	... <i>Búsqueda</i>	sede-central@sociedadteosoficaenperu.pe
1933	Philippines, The	... Mr Rosel Doval-Santos	... Corner P. Florentino and Iba Streets, Quezon City, Manila	... <i>The Philippine Theosophist</i>	philtheos@gmail.com
1921	Portugal	... Mrs Ana Maria Coelho de Sousa	... Sociedade Teosófica de Portugal, Rua José Estêvão, 10 B, 1150-202 Lisboa	... <i>Osiris</i>	geral@sociedadteosoficadeportugal.pt
1925	Puerto Rico †	... Mrs Magaly Polanco	... Apartado 36-1766 Correo General, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00936-1766	... <i>Heraldo Teosófico</i>	polancomagaly@yahoo.com
2012	Qatar ▲	... Mr Lijo Joseph	... Crewing Officer, Teyseer Services Company P.O. Box 2431, Doha		qatarblavatskylodge@yahoo.com
2013	Russia †	... Mr Alexey Besputin	... 159-52, Novomytischinsky prospekt, Mytischy, Moscow region, 141018	... <i>Teosoficheskoe Obozrenie</i> (The Theosophical Review)	pr@ts-russia.org
1910	Scotland *	... Mr Stuart Trotter	... 28 Great King Street, Edinburgh, EH3 6QH	... <i>Circles</i>	albion.trotter@gmail.com
1992	Slovenia *	... Mrs Blanka Blaj Borštnar	... Teozofsko Društvo v Sloveniji, Slomškova 35, 1000 Ljubljana	... <i>Teozofska Misel</i>	blanka.blaj@blaj-fasteners.com
1921	Spain	... Mrs Angels Torra Buron	... Av. Vall d'or, 85-87 08197 - Valldoreix (Spain)	... <i>Sophia</i>	presidencia@sociedadteosofica.es
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1895	Sweden	... Mrs Ing-Britt Wiklund	... Kalle Posts väg 48, S-702 29 Örebro	... <i>Tidlös Visdom</i>	ing-britt@wiklund-orebro.se
1910	Switzerland †	... Mr Andrea Biasca-Caroni	... Via Collina 19, 6612 Ascona	... <i>The Lotus</i>	ancaroni@me.com
1997	Togo *	... Mr Kouma Dakey	... S.O., A.R.T.T., BP 76, Adeta		
2013	Ukraine *	... Mrs Svitlana Gavrylenko	... Office 3, 7-A Zhylianska St., Kiev 01033	... <i>Svitoch</i>	org@theosophy.in.ua
1886	USA	... Dr Barbara B. Hebert	... PO Box 270, Wheaton, IL 60187-0270	... <i>The Quest</i>	admin@theosophical.org
1925	Uruguay *	... Mrs Ema Ma. de Souza Leal	... Javier Barrios Amorín 1085, Casilla de Correos 1553, Montevideo		st.uruguay@gmail.com
1925	Venezuela †	... Mrs Nelly Nouel	... Romualda a Socarrás, Edif. de Oro Piso 12, Apto. 122 - Caracas		nellynouel5@gmail.com
1922	Wales *	... Mrs Julie Cunningham	... Bryn Adda, Brynsiencyn, Llanfairpwll, Anglesey, LL61 6NX UK		theosophywales@yahoo.co.uk

Date refers to the date of formation

* Regional Association

† Presidential Agency

▲ Lodge attached to Adyar

The Council of the European Federation of National Societies: *Chairman:* Miss Trân-Thi-Kim-Diêu, 67 Rue des Pommiers, F-45000 Orleans, France. Email: trankimdieu@msn.comInter-American Theosophical Federation: *President:* Mrs Isis M. B. Resende, SGAS 603 conj. E s/n. Brasília-DF, CEP 70200-630 - Brazil. Email: imbresende@gmail.comIndo-Pacific Theosophical Federation: *President:* Mr Gerard Brennan, 42 Melbourne Street, Concord, 2137, Sydney, Australia. Email: president@ipf-ts.orgPan-African Theosophical Federation: *Chairman:* Mr Jack Hartmann, 9 Ronean, 38 Princess Avenue, Windsor E 2194, South Africa. Email: hartmann.jack.c@gmail.com

ADDITIONAL MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL

Mr D. K. Govindaraj, 3067/1 Brigade Citadel, Apt 202 Vivekananda Road, Yadavagiri, Mysore – 570 020, Karnataka State, India (for 2015, 2016 and 2017)

Mr R. C. Tampi, “Ragam”, Ernhippala, Calicut – 673 006, Kerala, India (for 2015, 2016 and 2017)

Mr Vicente Hao Chin Jr., No. 143, Maria Clara Street, Talayam, Quezon City, The Philippines (for 2016, 2017 and 2018)

Ms Tran-Thi-Kim-Dieu, No. 4, Square Rapp, 75007 Paris, France (for 2016, 2017 and 2018)

Ms Els Rijncker, Tolstraat 154, 1074 VM, Amsterdam, the Netherlands (for 2017, 2018 and 2019)

MINUTES

**of the Theosophical Society General Council Meeting held on
Friday, 30 December 2017, and adjourned
to Friday, 6 January 2018, at Adyar**

PRESENT

Mr Tim Boyd

President

and proxy from Tran-Thi-Kim-Dieu, Cuba, Italy, Mexico

Dr Deepa Padhi

Vice-President and proxy for Mr Dusan Zagar

Ms Marja Artamaa

Secretary

Ms Nancy Secrest

Treasurer

Mr Narasimha Rao

Former Treasurer, until November 2017

Mr John Osmond Boakye

General Secretary, Africa West

Mr Esteban Langlois

General Secretary, Argentina

Mrs Linda Oliveira

General Secretary, Australia

Mrs Sabine van Osta

General Secretary, Belgium

Mr Sergio Carvalho de Moraes Jr.

General Secretary, Brazil

Mrs Jenny Baker

General Secretary, England

Mrs Mirva Jaatinen

General Secretary, Finland

Mr Pradeep Gohil

General Secretary, India

Mr Wim Leys

General Secretary, Netherlands

Mr John Vorstermans

General Secretary, New Zealand

Mrs Angeles Torra-Buron

General Secretary, Spain and proxy from France

Mrs Barbara Hebert

General Secretary, USA

Ms Els Rijneker

Additional Member

Prof. R. C. Tampi

Additional Member

Mr Vicente Hao Chin, Jr.

Additional Member

Present as Observers :

Mrs Isis Resende, *Chairman of the Inter-American Theosophical Federation*

Mr Gerard Brennan, *Chairman of the Indo-Pacific Federation, Australia*

Mr Marcos de Resende, *Brazil*

Mr Jacques Mahnich, *France*

Mrs Isolde Sueltemeier, *Germany*

Mr Vinayak Pandya, *India*

Prof. C. A. Shinde, *India*

Mrs Patrizia Calvi, *Italy*

Mrs Birgitta Skarbo, *Sweden*

Mr Andrea Biasca-Baroni, *Switzerland*

Mrs Svitlana Gavrylenko, *Ukraine*

The President welcomed those present.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 30 December 2016 at Adyar, having been circulated, were taken as read, accepted, and signed.

2. Matters arising out of the Minutes

President talked about the GC planning meeting in March at the ITC Naarden, the Netherlands. 20 internal and 20 external projects were initiated, yet all have not been started. A briefing of the report of the projects created during those days, will be summarized at the adjourned meeting on 6 January 2018.

3. Voting and confirmation of Additional General Council members

The terms of Additional Members of the General Council Prof. R. C. Tampi, and Mr Govindaraj came to an end on 31 December 2017.

The President had nominated *Mrs Patrizia Mochin Calvi*, *Mr Vinayak Pandya*, *Mr Marcos de Resende*, and *Prof. C. A. Shinde* for election under Rule 2 of the Rules and Regulations as Additional Members of the General Council for the years 2018, 2019, and 2020. The result of the voting was as follows:

	<i>For:</i>	<i>Against:</i>	<i>Abstained:</i>
Mrs Patrizia Calvi 27	0	0	
Mr Vinayak Pandya	26	1	0
Mr Marcos de Resende	26	1	0
Prof. C. A. Shinde	26	1	0

Mrs Patrizia Calvi, Mr Vinayak Pandya, Mr Marcos de Resende, and Prof. C. A. Shinde were declared elected as Additional Members of the General Council for the years 2018, 2019, and 2020.

4. Report on the Non-English Publications Fund

The Secretary reported that on 30 September 2017 the balance of NEPF account held by the Theosophical Investment Trust in America was \$94,238.

No grants were given during the financial year.

5. Report on the International Funds

The Secretary reported the status on 30 September 2017:

a) International Funds in Australia

ABC Fund (including Endowment Fund): AS\$691,626

Adyar Security Fund: AS\$110,866

The only usage has been the yearly grant from the Fund to Adyar Security, AS\$14,000.

b) International ABC Funds in USA

Theosophical Investment Trust: \$1,423,075

Theosophical Society in America: \$ 35,755

The usage was for International travel 13,912, Adyar renovation 20,000, and International TOS draw 5,000.

The President said that the ABC Funds were created in USA for the international work of the Theosophical Society. The funds are invested for long-term growth.

c) The Renovation Funds in USA and the Netherlands were created during 2016 as requested by the President for the renovations needed at Adyar. Usage of the funds is made with the approval of the Executive Committee. The renovations concern the Headquarters Building, Blavatsky Bungalow, Raja House, and Leadbeater Chambers.

The balance in September 2017 of the Renovation Funds were:

Adyar Renovation Fund in USA: \$6,322 (wired for renovation 70,040)

Renovation Fund in the Netherlands: €129,937.93 (+€100,000 promised)

Renovation started with Blavatsky Bungalow at the end of June 2017. The Treasurer reported that from the Renovation Funds, \$91,200 have been used by 30 December.

After Blavatsky Bungalow, renovation of Leadbeater Chambers will commence, which will probably begin in January 2019.

6. Report by the President on the Headquarters

– The President stated that the Campus has 40 wells, all of which are not continuously in use. 2/3 of the underground water supply lines have been replaced. The final 1/3 is scheduled for this year. For purified drinking water, three additional RO plants were installed.

– The fallen trees from the cyclone Vardah in December 2016 have now all been cleared and reused in various ways.

– Archives completed digitizing of HPB's scrap-books — more than 30 volumes.

– In March the Campus was visited by the President of India in connection with the Centenary of the Women's Indian Association, which was co-founded by Dr Annie Besant.

– Besant Memorial Animal Dispensary (BMAD) got a new revival by Mr Shravan

Krishnan, who started volunteering to build it up to a new level. He brought 60–100 young volunteers to clean the area, repair the shelters, and arrange new surgical equipment. Weekly there are volunteers who take care of the animals.

- Vocational Training Centre (VTC) has got an uplift by dedicated support from Lily Boyd.

- Social Welfare Centre (SWC) has a new playground, pathway to lavatories, five new lavatories, and a new RO plant. All possible due to donors.

“The School” (KFI) will vacate Damodar Gardens by May 2018 to their new place Thazhambur, Chennai, (around 45 mins. south of Adyar). The area of Damodar Gardens is 14 acres. The use of the vacated land is planned for a subsidiary of TVS (India’s largest automobile company), TVSES (TVS Education Society). This includes redeveloping the area and buildings at Damodar Gardens. The vocational training by TVSES will graduate 3,000 students yearly. The benefit will be to the Olcott School students as well. It is also planned to establish an International School in due time with TVSES. The income would be for the TS, and to benefit our schools. These visions, when actualized, will offer an exemplary educational corridor to the world.

We have to produce land records for the overall survey, and that is in process.

The GC’s approval was received to move forward with this vision.

The GC’s next strategic planning meeting is scheduled to take place at ITC Naarden from 30 June to 5 July 2018. It will be an official GC meeting with authority to address issues related to strategic planning.

7. Treasurer’s Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2017

Ms Nancy Secrest was elected by the GC in October 2017 to be the International Treasurer for 2018–2020.

The President gave his appreciation and gratitude to the former Treasurer, Mr K. Narasimha Rao, for his service of years, who also thanked the President. Both were happy to hand over the work to Nancy.

The GC passed a resolution of thanks and appreciation to Mr Narasimha Rao for his term of service as International Treasurer.

Mr Narasimha Rao, having been the Treasurer of the financial year, explained major points of the Accounts Report. It was mentioned that it would be worth it to review our banking policy, as the regulations in India are in constant change. It seems that conservative banks are the safest, although they may not offer high interest rates.

The Treasurer’s Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2017 were approved.

8. The Budget for the year ending 31 March 2019

Ms Nancy Secrest, the new Treasurer, presented the Budget in detail. She also said

that in view for this year 2018 is the need of computerizing the accounting system in full.

Questions on the subject to consider were brought up:

– Propagation of Theosophy: we need to be more active in this area; what do we want to do this year; 4.8 million includes Convention and Adyar Library, and without them the propagation budget is very small. Projects initiated at Naarden are not in the budget.

– Concerning salaries, a merit element should be included.

– Deficit budgeting: would be good to use the term “surplus centres”, instead of “profit centres”.

The Budget for the year ending 31 March 2019 was considered, discussed, and approved with all in favour.

Propagation of Theosophy budgeting would be revised according to the plans at Naarden in July 2018.

9. Appointment of Auditors for the year ending 31 March 2019

M/s Srihari & Co. were unanimously re-appointed as Auditors for the year ending 31 March 2018 on the same terms as before.

10. Appointment of Executive Committee (EC)

The President presented his suggestions for the Executive Committee members for 2018.

All were in favor for the President's suggestions, thus 19 + 4 proxy votes = 23 votes.

Following are the appointed Executive Committee members for 2018:

Mr Tim Boyd	President (ex-officio)
Dr Deepa Padhi	Vice-President (ex-officio)
Ms Nancy Secrest	Treasurer (ex-officio)
Ms Marja Artamaa	Secretary (ex-officio)
Mrs Jenny Baker	General Council Member
Mr Pradeep Gohil	General Council Member
Prof. C. A. Shinde	General Council Member
Mr Jaikumar Kannan	Member
Mr S. Harihara Raghavan	Member
Mr S. Ramkumar	Member
Mr A. L. Somayaji	Member

11. Renovation Projects

The President mentioned the targeted renovations to take place in the following

order: Blavatsky Bungalow (started), Leadbeater Chambers and then Headquarters Building.

The new Archives is to be built as an addition to the Library. The work is targeted to start in 2018.

Room #30 in Leadbeater Chambers has been converted into a mock-up room for delegates to see how the new room plan will look. It was suggested that individuals and Sections would adopt one room and donate its renovation, which is \$5,000. The room will then have a plaque with the name of the donor. This donation would not mean that the room is reserved for the country's use, but to indicate the goodwill for improvement.

12. Discussion on work around the world

The General Secretaries present reported the main points from their country.

13. World Congress

The time of the World Congress is from 4 to 9 August 2018 in Singapore. The venue is the Ramada Hotel. Registration is already in process. As maximum attendees is 300, early registrations and payment by 4 April 2018 is required.

14. Any Other Business

a) Motion to amend the Rules and Regulations for nomination and election procedure of the international President, from Jack Hartmann, GS of the TS in South Africa.

The Rules Committee of last year considered the other version from Jack Hartman last year when preparing the rules amendments. This new version by Jack Hartman was elaborated with the background. GC considered and rejected this as a proposal.

b) A proposal for the establishment of a "Nature and Environmental Centre" within the estate of Adyar, from Angels Torra-Buron, GS of TS in Spain.

The suggestion received much supportive arguments for the proposal. It needs to be worked out to concrete steps.

The meeting was adjourned to 6 January 2018 at 8:30 am.

Present in the adjourned meeting: From those GC members who attended the meeting on 30 December the following had left: Mrs Deepa Padhi, Mr Narasimha Rao, Mr Sergio Moraes.

The new additional members attended: Mr Vinayak Pandya, Mr Marcos de Resende and Prof. C. A. Shinde.

Observers were: Mrs Isis de Resende, Mr Jacques Mahnich, Mrs Svitlana Gavrylenko, Mr Gerard Brennan, Mr Andreas Isberg, Mr Jan N. Kind.

a) The Purpose and Scope of the TS. A proposal for resolution prepared by Linda Oliveira and John Vorstermans.

The resolution was discussed in length and depth. It was noted that a need for this kind of resolution is needed, but it needs to be condensed.

Result is to request Linda Oliveira and John Vorstermans to prepare a more condensed version for the GC with explanation added. A short version is required for wide sharing.

b) Policy Paper and Strategic Plan. A proposal for mission statement prepared at the GC planning meeting at Naarden, the Netherlands, in March 2017.

Projects:

Vic Hao Chin Jr presented the progress report of June 2017 about the projects initiated at the Naarden planning meeting in March 2017.

It was decided to have the next GC planning meeting in ITC Naarden on 30 June to 5 July 2018. A few projects were discussed, and actions for them are listed in a separate document.

About international speakers list (project A24), it was discussed to come up with a list of international lecturers endorsed by the TS HQ, including developing criteria and screening process for eligibility to be categorized as international speaker.

A list of volunteers of the projects will be sent to the GC members for review and recommend who can volunteer in addition.

A new project was added for clarifying and creating instructions for Charity Organizations. Members of the team are John Vorstermans, Nancy Secrest, and Sabine van Osta.

A new project was added for creating a publication on researches relevant to theosophy. Task to be carried out by Jacques Mahnich.

Vic Hao Chin Jr has prepared a paper on "Establishing Theosophical Schools", which will be sent to the GC members.

Mission statement:

The Mission Statement created in the planning meeting in March 2017 was presented. It was advised to keep it in mind, if this would be considered as relevant to be adopted worldwide to become official. In July 2018 at Naarden, it will be reconsidered.

c) Reply to antagonistic letter

A reply to a particular antagonistic letter sent to GC members was suggested and drafted by 2 GC members. Although the letter and the intention was felt to be good, it was decided that the General Council itself will not reply.

d) Olcott School land

The President has been in contact with a very well-established charitable trust, FC Madras Academy, to put up a football training centre for developing elite Indian footballers. It would be developed in the area of the Olcott School field. Requirements from the TS are 1) our children must have access to the football field and the training, and 2) there must be an income stream to be used for the Olcott School. Legal matters will be carefully taken up with the GC lawyer.

e) Suggestions for the Convention

Improvement for coming Conventions will be discussed with the Convention Team. From the GC, the following points were raised:

- The need to emphasize the applied aspect of Theosophy
- To increase different kinds of activities; to use parallel programs, like for TOS
- To have discussion groups of different languages with a leader who then gives the summaries in the main programme
- To make it known that one can register, although he/she would not attend; Mumbai Lodges use this
- Reminding that we do the Masters' work
- Registration fee for Indians is too low, Rs.200.
- Have volunteers to come a few weeks or days before.

f) School of the Wisdom

It was suggested that the School of the Wisdom would have some fee. One point made was that if it is free, people do not value it. The matter was left open.

15. Closing the meeting

The President thanked everyone for the successful meeting.

The GC meeting was held on 30 December 2016 from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

The adjourned meeting was held on 6 January 2017, from 8:30 am to 11:20 am.

Marja Artamaa
International Secretary
Adyar, Chennai 600 020

